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# THE TIMES



No. 64,897

WEDNESDAY MARCH 9 1994

RK

## Row over minister's view of truth

'Government is like poker. You don't put up all your cards at one time'

By PHILIP WEBSTER,  
MICHAEL DYNES AND  
ARTHUR LEATHLEY

WILLIAM Waldegrave was desperately trying to extricate the Government from a fresh row over its integrity last night after declaring that ministers were sometimes entitled to lie to the House of Commons.

The minister for open government stunned a committee of MPs yesterday afternoon when he said that ministers could exceptionally "say something that is untrue to the House of Commons", adding: "Much of government activity is much more like playing poker than playing chess. You don't put all your cards up at one time."

With the Government embarrassed and Labour pouncing on the minister's "accommodation with dishonesty", Mr Waldegrave took

to the airwaves to try to clarify his remarks and dismissed as "bunkum and balderdash" the way they were being interpreted. He told Channel 4 News that he had given a straight answer to a straight question, and said the only cases of ministers lying that had been accepted were when the Chancellors Sir Stafford Cripps and James Callaghan had been obliged to say things that were wrong to defend the pound.

But with ministerial reputations on the line at both the Scott enquiry into arms sales to Iraq and the Pergau dam investigation, the damage had been done. Mr Waldegrave himself is already under attack for failing to inform Parliament that ministers had de-

cided to relax guidelines on defence sales to Iraq and Iran after the ceasefire in the war between the two countries.

Paragraph 21 of Questions of Procedure for Ministers lays a duty on them to give Parliament, including select committees, and the public as full information as possible about the policies, decisions and actions of the Government, and not to deceive or mislead Parliament and the public.

But last month, Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, told the Scott enquiry that it was possible for ministers to give "an accurate but incomplete answer". Sir Robin later wrote to The Daily Telegraph saying: "The questions whether a statement is complete and whether

it is misleading are separate. In the real world, it is frequently the case that one cannot say all one knows. In that situation one should avoid misleading, if one possibly can."

Asked about ministerial candour in the light of Sir Robin's remarks, Mr Waldegrave told the all-party Treasury and Civil Service committee: "What Sir Robin was saying is that in exceptional cases it is necessary to say something that is untrue to the House of Commons. The House of Commons understands that and has always accepted that."

Quentin Davies, Tory MP for Stamford and Spalding, said: "The House of Commons does on occasion accept that ministers lie to it in the national interest." He said there

was an occasion where a minister had to lie for his country and resigned afterwards. Mr Waldegrave said: "That is the very, very exceptional case where he said something untrue. There are plenty of cases where the minister will not mislead the House, but he will take care and may not display everything he knows about a subject."

Michael Meacher, the shadow open government minister, retorted: "The Waldegrave doctrine that there are a number of 'exceptional circumstances' in which it is necessary to mislead Parliament exposes just how relative ministers' commitment to truthfulness has now become."

"With the single exception of the period before devaluation, there is

no such class of circumstances when ministers lying to the House can be justified. Trust and credibility are at the heart of democracy, and if this dangerous and highly-damaging doctrine were once accepted, confidence in ministers, already at the lowest ebb since the war, would completely collapse."

Pergau and Scott showed how readily ministers hid the truth "under a smokescreen of alleged public interest. This doctrine would give them carte blanche to go further still."

A statement issued later Continued on page 2, col 5



Waldegrave: rush to clarify 'ministers may lie' remark

Hurd contradicted, page 2  
Letters, and  
Leading article, page 17



The macabre secrets of Frederick West's tatty Gloucester home have turned it into a tourist attraction to rival the city's 11th century cathedral and a shop that inspired Beatrix Potter

## Eighth body found under bathroom floor

By BILL FROST

REMAINS of an eighth body were unearthed by police at Frederick West's terrace home in Gloucester yesterday, as a radar scanning device indicated the presence of more bodies.

The victim was discovered 6 ft under a bathroom on the ground floor of 25 Cromwell Street. Officers tore out the bath and sink before starting to dig, and Chief Inspector Colin Handy said later: "The remains of a woman have been found under the concrete floor near a wall."

The discovery came as a computer-adapted photograph was released showing how Mr West's first wife might look today, 25 years

after relatives last saw her. Catherine Costello, married Mr West in 1962 and the couple had two children. Neither Ms Costello nor her daughter Charmaine have been seen by police since they moved to Scotland in 1969.

Mr West, a 52-year-old builder, was being interviewed by detectives yesterday. He has been charged with murdering his daughter Heather, 16, Shirley Robinson, an 18-year-old pregnant lodger at the house, and an unidentified woman in her 20s.

Police said yesterday that they had "positive lines of inquiry" on the identities of seven of the eight bodies so far recovered. Professor Bernard



Catherine Costello as she was more than 20 years ago, left, and as a computer suggests she might look today



Knight, a Home Office pathologist, will try to reconstruct the face of the eighth. All the dead are believed to be female. There was no evidence to

ground floors of the Cromwell Street house, and during the morning they began to fill in the garden where three bodies were found during earlier excavations. Once the search of Cromwell Street is complete, three more sites will be examined: police are standing guard at a field in Much Marcle on the county border with Hereford and Worcester close to Mr West's childhood home, and officers are also expected to search another house in Gloucester, less than a mile from Cromwell Street where Mr West and Ms Costello lived.

During the mid-Seventies, the Cromwell Street house was known for some of the cheapest bedsits in Gloucester with rooms advertised for as

little as £5 a week. The front basement was let as a flat, and there were half a dozen bedsits on the other two floors. Mr West also rented out a flat in the house opposite.

Shaun Boyle, a former boyfriend of one of the many young girls who lived at number 25, said: "Cromwell Street was well known as a place where drifters, dropouts and teenagers who had been kicked out of home could look for bedsits."

"The rooms were pretty basic, with kids coming and going all the time. You'd never question it if someone moved on. The tenants weren't young kids; they were all 16 or over."

City recalls, page 3  
Theodore Dalrymple, page 16

## Britain urges US to commit troops

By MICHAEL EVANS AND NICHOLAS WOOD

A BRITISH infantry battalion is expected to leave for Bosnia this weekend as reinforcements for the Coldstream Guards. The Cabinet will make its decision tomorrow.

The 1st Battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment, waiting to leave for Bosnia, will receive a visit today from Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, at their barracks in Wiltshire, underlining the Government's readiness to send more troops. The deployment, which would increase Britain's military presence in Bosnia to about 3,200, seems likely to go ahead whether or not the United Nations meets its target of 10,650 extra troops to help to police the ceasefires in central Bosnia.

Britain yesterday also intensified the pressure on the United States to commit ground troops to Bosnia. Mr Rifkind said a "creeping ceasefire" was taking place and hinted that it was time for the US to honour its pledge to send in troops once there was peace. Although he did not

point the finger directly at Washington, he indicated that the pre-condition for the despatch of US troops had been met by the new ceasefire deals.

He predicted an announcement of reinforcements for Bosnia within 24 to 48 hours, and indicated that France, Russia and the Czech Republic had offered more troops. But Alain Juppé, the French Foreign Minister, quashed reports that France, which is the biggest contributor, was considering sending more troops.

Mr Rifkind spoke of a "valuable window of opportunity" that should not be missed because it held out the prospect of a "proper peace" leading eventually to the withdrawal of foreign troops.

Another cabinet minister said: "It is all about the US committing ground troops. That is what all this is aimed at." In the Commons, Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, joined in calls for the Americans to take part.

Trans run again, page 12

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## Bentley thinks small with £90,000 'mini'

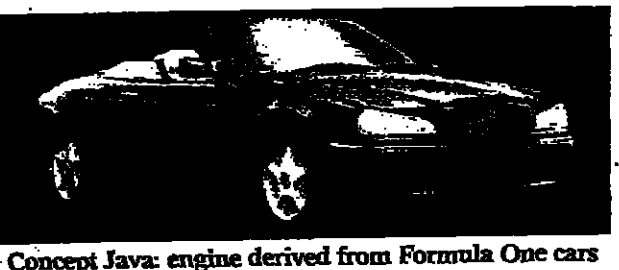
ROLLS-ROYCE surprised the Geneva Motor Show yesterday by unveiling a 170 mph "mini Bentley" which could transform the company's image as a manufacturer of huge "gas guzzlers" (Kevin Eason writes).

The new Bentley is the smallest and fastest car the company has made and it will also be the cheapest, with a price estimated at about £90,000. Company executives pointed out that the car was only a prototype, but could go into production within five years if public reaction was good. The car, called Concept

Java, is about the same length as the BMW 5-series and is almost a tonne lighter than the company's current models.

Rolls has turned away from its traditional 6.7 litre engines for the expertise of Cosworth, which has developed a 3.5 litre model adapted from its own Formula One race engine. The car reaches 60 mph in 5.6 secs and is expected to average about 30 miles to the gallon compared with the 14-15 mpg of current models.

Rolls struggled back to a slender £3 million profit last year after running up a £100 million deficit.



Concept Java: engine derived from Formula One cars

## £65m more for mothers

About 285,000 working women are to gain £65 million in improved maternity benefits forced on the Government by the European Union. Under the new scheme, to apply on October 16, women must have worked for six months in the same job instead of two years to be entitled to the higher rate - 90 per cent of earnings - Page 2

## British output bounces back

Manufacturing output made significant gains in January, bouncing back after the December fall in production, which was itself revised. The Central Statistical Office said manufacturing rose by 1.1% in January compared with December: industrial production, which includes North Sea and energy, rose by 0.8% - Pages 25-27

## Two die in river rafting accident

A POLICE officer and a teenage girl died yesterday when an inflatable raft capsized on the fast-flowing River Orchy in Strathclyde.

Seven other people on the raft reached safety. One was taken by air ambulance to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow, but none of the others was believed to be seriously hurt.

It is understood that six of the people on the raft were police from the Bellshill area of Lanarkshire. The dead girl was said to be a relative of one of the police officers. Two of those on the raft were believed to be instructors.

The alarm was raised when one of the rafters managed to reach the bank and make their way to a nearby farm. Rescuers last night found the body of the teenage girl. The body of the dead police officer had been spotted earlier, entan-

gled in bushes, by rescuers in a helicopter from HMS Gannet at Prestwick.

The accident occurred in torrential rain and gales, and the river was said to be very high as a result of rainfall and melting snow. Details of the incident were still sketchy last night, but the group was said to be a mixture of men and women.

A helicopter from RAF Farnborough in Hants joined mountain rescue teams from Oban and Dumbarton to search the area, four miles southwest of Bridge of Orchy.

Police said last night that they were not in a position to confirm the identities of those involved.

The Orchy has some of the most treacherous water rapids in Scotland, with two particular areas, known as Easlon Cheatha and The Ramp, posing potential hazards.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Major backs injury payment changes

John Major last night defended proposed changes to the criminal injuries compensation scheme against mounting criticism in the Lords and Commons that they could lead to drastic reductions in payments to victims (Robert Morgan and Philip Webster write). Downing Street officials said that the changes, due to come into effect next month, would not be dropped and that the scheme would remain the most generous of its kind in the world.

Labour promised last night to table amendments to the Criminal Justice Bill to reverse the changes. John Smith, the Labour Leader, told MPs of a case where a police officer, entitled to £121,000 under the existing scheme, would get only £7,500 under the "crude tariff scheme" shortly to replace it.

## 'No win, no fee' concern

Government plans to allow lawyers to take on cases for nothing and double their fees if they win have run into opposition. Lord Taylor of Gossford, the Lord Chief Justice, is concerned the arrangements could lead to legal aid cuts. Peter Birt QC, chairman of the Bar's legal aid committee, said lawyers' ethical standards could be compromised.

## Beef ban threat stays

Germany yesterday refused to withdraw a threat to ban imports of British beef and veal, claiming that measures to prevent the spread of "mad cow disease" to the rest of the European Community were inadequate. The European Commission backed Britain's view that precautions were sufficient and said an import ban would violate the Treaty of Rome.

## Asbestos claim settled

A £16 million damages action over the cost of clearing up asbestos contamination at Faslane in Strathclyde was settled out of court in Edinburgh yesterday. The Ministry of Defence claimed it was left with the bill when it took over the site leased to Shipbreaking Industries of Motherwell. The terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

## Hendrix inquest rejected

Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, yesterday rejected a call for a new inquest into the death of Jimi Hendrix, the rock guitarist who died in an ambulance in London aged 27 in September 1970. At the time, a pathologist said Hendrix choked after barbiturate intoxication. Scotland Yard was called in to investigate claims of fresh evidence.

## Blasphemy challenge

Britain's blasphemy laws may contravene the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Commission on Human Rights ruled in Strasbourg. There was an arguable case that the convention was breached when the British Board of Film Classification banned *Visions of Ecstasy*. The case will go to the European Court.

## BBC weatherman retires

Bernard Davey, the BBC television weatherman, has decided to retire before multiple sclerosis, the disease from which he suffers, affects his performance. The 50-year-old Irishman who has three children and lives in Swindon, Wiltshire, said last night: "It's something that came on a couple of years ago. It's a mild form, I am not incapacitated."

## Monumental fit of giggles for the Unknown Heckler

Westminster Abbey finds space for the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. If glory counts for anything they should find a corner for the tomb of the Anonymous Opposition Heckler. Five words yesterday — five syllables — shouted from who knows where on the Labour benches, detonated the idiosyncrasy of Prime Minister's questions, and reduced the PM himself to helpless giggles.

As everyone knows, governments try to orchestrate parliamentary questions, and never more strenuously than at questions to the Prime Minister, screened on television.

Even a decade ago it was the practice, well before each Tuesday and Thursday session, for Downing Street to take a look at the names on the list of interrogators, contact the Tory ones, and discreetly enquire what sort of thing it was that the MP in question had in mind to ask.

Just so the PM can do her homework and give you a helpful answer, was the way one of Mrs Thatcher's lieutenants once put it to me, while trying to find out what question I planned.

As the years of Tory rule wore on, the lieutenants grew bolder. They began (with infinite courtesy, of course) putting it to backbenchers that this or that line of enquiry might be a little embarrassing, just at present.



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

Would the MP perhaps consider a different question? It was not long before the lieutenants took to providing lists of possible questions — just in case the MP would find some suggestions helpful. The "suggestion" could be offered with a degree of menace.

These days, I learn, some Tory backbenchers simply telephone to find out what to ask.

This sketch is very far from implying that this was what Richard Spring (C, Bury St Edmunds) had done when he

found his name sixth on the list for questions to Mr Major yesterday. Mr Spring is intelligent enough to guess, without being told, what was required of a humble foolhardy in his position.

"Mr Spring!" shouted the Speaker.

"Question number six, Madam," murmured Spring. The initial dummy question was the standard one, about the PM's engagements. The MP got the standard reply. Now for the big one: the supplementary which our East Anglian sage had been

honing all morning and agonising about over lunch.

"Has my right hon friend noted that output rose by 1.1 per cent in January, well above expectations? And that in difficult world trading conditions it is policies of low inflation, low interest rates and low corporate taxation which have made Britain a beacon of success?" The pause which followed amounted to an unvoiced collective groan. Even the PM looked bored.

Nobody knows who shouted it, except that the voice was male, Scottish and came from the Opposition benches. "That's a hard one, John!"

Collapse of the entire House, Mr Major seemed to be incapacitated by a fit of giggles. "Answer! Answer!" shouted Labour MPs. Mr Major rose, still grinning. "My hon friend is absolutely right." The cry of ironic hear-hears nearly raised the roof. Even the whips had the grace to smirk.

But reader, before you judge Mr Spring, who looks a decent chap, ask yourself why a decent chap is reduced to this. When you're in the team, the pressures are compelling. I remember cringing with embarrassment when, publicly, in the Commons

tearoom, a fellow backbencher told Mrs Thatcher what an inspiration her thinking was to him.

He was a minister within a year. He's in the Cabinet now.

## 280,000 women to gain from change in maternity pay

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 285,000 working women stand to gain from improved maternity benefit arrangements which have been forced on the Government by the European Union.

Under the new scheme, which abolishes the present two-year working rule, all women who have worked for six months in the same job will be entitled to the higher rate for maternity pay at 90 per cent of earnings for six weeks.

They will then be given the lower rate — to be raised by £3.70 to £52.50 a week — for the following 12 weeks.

However, employers warned yesterday that the move might stop firms taking on female employees as they would have to foot the £65 million bill for the extra payments.

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, told MPs in a parliamentary answer that the changes, which apply to women expecting a baby on or after October 16, were in direct response to a European Directive on the Protection of Pregnant Women at Work.

Under the present system women who have worked for two years or more in the same job are entitled to 18 weeks

of maternity leave. They get 90 per cent of earnings for the first six weeks before falling to the lower rate for a further 12 weeks. Women who have worked for between six months and two years get only the lower rate for the whole 18 weeks. Women who have not been in a job for six months get maternity allowance of £43.75 a week.

Under the new arrangement, the maternity allowance will go up by £7.95 a week. Women who are unemployed or self-employed will get £44.55 a week.

Mr Lilley also announced that employers would pick up the full costs. At present the Government reimburses employers with 100 per cent of statutory maternity pay. From September this will fall to 92 per cent for large employers. Small firms paying less than £20,000 in gross National Insurance contributions will be protected. Mr Lilley said reductions in employers' NICs announced in the last Budget would more than compensate.

A spokesman for the Confederation of British Industry condemned the Government's decision to transfer the costs to industry. "This is a social cost

and should not be transferred solely to the employer."

The changes were welcomed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, but it pointed out that women in the UK would still receive the lowest level of maternity pay in Europe.

Labour also condemned the Government's failure to allow Britain's lowest paid female workers to get the new rates of maternity allowance. Donald Dewar, the shadow Social Security Secretary, said: "The Government has failed to include nearly one in five pregnant women who earn less than £57 a week and are exempt totally from maternity pay."

Peter Lilley has been dragged kicking and screaming by Europe. No one believes that without the directive there would have been any action."

Mr Lilley also said women would also be able to receive statutory sick pay in the later stages of pregnancy, if they were sick for reasons other than pregnancy. This is expected to add an extra £10 million in statutory sick pay costs to the £55 million costs, also to be met by industry.



Lord Younger: "Better to take what we had got than to risk going back to square one"

## Row over minister's right to lie

Continued from page 1

from Mr Waldegrave's office said: "Mr Waldegrave was questioned by the committee about Sir Robin Butler's statement to the Scott enquiry that there were very exceptional circumstances in which ministers might mislead the House of Commons."

"Mr Waldegrave repeated Sir Robin Butler's example of Lord Callaghan being required to mislead the House over an impending devaluation. No criticism attached to Lord Callaghan or Sir Stafford Cripps, who did the same thing, for that. These were the exceptional cases to which Sir Robin referred and which had always been accepted by Parliament."

James Callaghan resigned as Chancellor in 1967, telling Harold Wilson: "Last Thursday I felt it necessary to recommend the Cabinet to devalue the pound and they accepted my advice. When I did so, I was very conscious that I was going back on pledges that I had given in good faith to a number of overseas countries about the value of their sterling holdings." Mr Callaghan then immediately became Home Secretary in a straight exchange with Roy Jenkins.

One of the most celebrated cases of a minister having to resign — both from the House as well as his post — was when John Profumo, then War Secretary, told the Commons that he had not had an affair with Christine Keeler.

Leading article, page 17

## Hurd contradicted over Pergau dam aid 'linkage'

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER senior diplomat blew a hole in the Government's defences over the Pergau dam affair yesterday.

Britain's former High Commissioner in Malaysia directly contradicted statements made by senior ministers over events that led to a £234 million aid deal with Malaysia.

Lord Younger of Prestwick, former Defence Secretary, and Sir Nicholas Spreckley, former High Commissioner to Malaysia, were giving evidence to the Commons foreign affairs select committee. Sir Nicholas cast doubt on Douglas Hurd's assurances that a £234 million aid deal with Malaysia had been "delinked" from a £1 billion defence order.

In March 1988 Sir Nicholas and Lord Younger signed a protocol with Malaysia agreeing a £1 billion arms sale. The deal, signed in Kuala Lumpur, included an agreement that Britain would contribute up to 20 per cent of the price in overseas aid. The Foreign Office section that arranges aid was not consulted.

MPs were told that Lord Younger faced "agitated" reaction from ministers when he returned to London and was forced to send a letter to the Malaysian finance minister in June, making clear that the two issues could not be linked. On the same day, June 28, Sir Nicholas wrote to the same Malaysian minister making clear that £200 million would be available for aid projects.

Sir Nicholas contradicted the evidence of Mr Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, who told MPs last week that the two simultaneously delivered letters had "delinked" defence sales and the aid offer.

Mr Hurd said the purpose of the two letters was "to say that these two policies cannot be linked, they have to be pursued separately". Sir Nicholas said: "My advice was

## Prior meets Mahathir

Lord Prior, chairman of GEC, which has extensive Malaysian interests, yesterday met Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Malaysian Prime Minister, to try to persuade him to lift his trade ban on Britain. There was no immediate breakthrough from the talks, which were unpublicised. The former Cabinet minister, who left for London last night, evidently had full authority from the British government to find a solution.

that, if the Malaysian addition [including aid in the protocol] was to be withdrawn, something had to be put in its place."

The letter offering aid served "to restate the figure in a correct way rather than in a general way it had appeared in the protocol". He said the original aid promise had helped Britain to get "over the barrier of getting a Malaysian agreement signed". Michael

Jopling, a Conservative committee member, put it to Sir Nicholas that the June letter was "the son of the March protocol". Sir Nicholas replied: "Yes, it remained important to Malaysia that there should remain some association with the provision of aid."

The pressure on the two men to seal the defence agreement became clear as Lord Younger described the circumstances under which he and Sir Nicholas agreed to use "unity" language to satisfy the Malaysian negotiators. Lord Younger insisted that the protocol did not represent a formal agreement. "They were getting very near to the point, I judged, that they were going to throw over the whole thing because they were irritated at not getting the linkage that they had hoped for."

"Having got the prize which we really wanted, which was no linkage, it seemed to me to be better to take what we had got, which was not a commitment, than to risk the whole thing going back to square one... I do not think it represented any commitment."

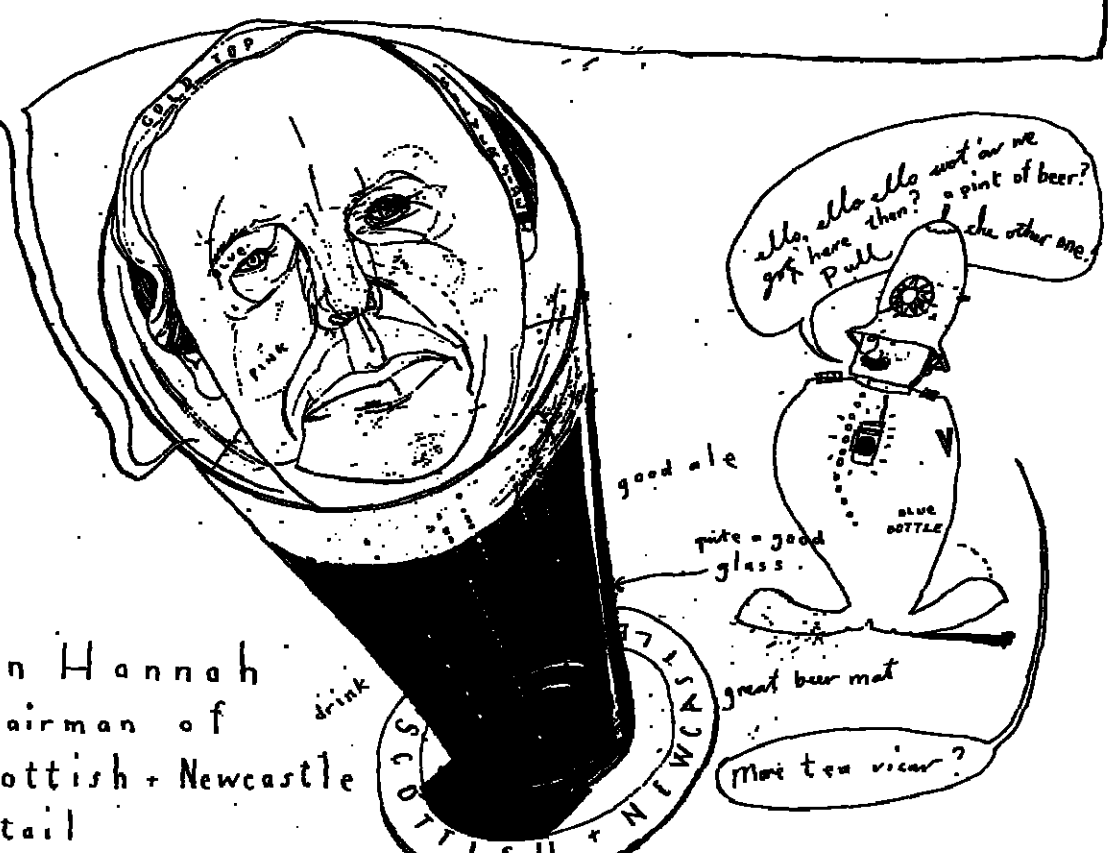
The Labour MP Mike Gapes asked: "You thought you had to put in this reference to aid as a sweetener in order to stop them breaking the deal. Is that what you did?"

Lord Younger: "That was my judgement."

Mr Gapes: "So it was a sweetener?"

Lord Younger: "It was their request to put that in."

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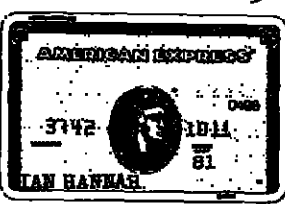


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## Frozen out in Siberia

ADVENTURERS hoping to make an overland crossing from London to New York had a setback yesterday when the special tracked vehicle due to carry them across the frozen Bering Strait broke down.

Meanwhile, the team, led by Richard Creasey, a British television executive, are recovering from blizzards that hampered their journey across eastern Siberia. Temperatures of -30C, worsened by the wind, mechanical problems and tension between members com-

bined to slow progress to barely one kilometre an hour in the past few days.

Communications between the convoy and its headquarters in London was lost at one point, and the convoy was split up by a storm.

Team members, who include a Russian and a Canadian, left London on December 27 via the Channel tunnel. On reaching Alaska they will ride by snowmobile to Fairbanks, where they will rejoin their cars and drive to New York.

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Police tackle the painstaking task of gathering evidence as the toll rises at 25 Cromwell Street

## City of death recoils in horror from grim reality

By Bill Frost

DAY after day, as the police unearth another grisly find at 25 Cromwell Street, the cameras of the world's media focus on Gloucester. Some townsfolk, bewildered by the attention, ask themselves how a serial killer could operate with impunity for so long in their midst. Others are angry that the historic city will never recover from its notoriety.

A party of young French tourists stood with their backs to the 11th century cathedral, where the bones of Edward II are interred, as one translated a front page story headlined "Body No 8 found in the cellar". Justine la Grange, 18, from Tours, said: "We were told that this was a beautiful place. After what we have read it seems gloomy and strange to us. So do the people."

Her view was echoed by a pensioner sitting on a bench near by. Nora James, 71, said: "I've known this city all my life. The people used to be kind and caring. How can this have happened in Gloucester of all places?"

Outside the building that Beatrice Potter used as the model for the Tailor of Gloucester's shop, a young mother said she would like to move away. "My two children keep asking me about these horrible murders, it's all they talk about at school. I live quite close to Cromwell Street and after what has happened I really want to move out of Gloucester as soon as possible. It won't ever be the same," she said.

Roland Parsons, a local authority engineer and lay preacher, said people felt humiliated and shocked. "We feel bewildered by the way the outside world is now looking at us."

Although the city of 100,000 people retains much of its historic charm, the blight of urban planning has intruded in the shape of shopping

precincts and multi-storey car parks. There are beggars in the street and drunks in the parks.

"Once we were the historic capital of the ancient kingdom of Wessex, now we're fast becoming Cheltenham's shabby cousin," said one man.

Mike McCabe, the city council's information officer, would not accept that Gloucester's reputation had been irreparably damaged. "Certainly, people will remember this for a long time to come. But when the media attention dies down we will recover. Gloucester is a great and historic city with a thriving community and the memory of this horrible business will eventually fade."

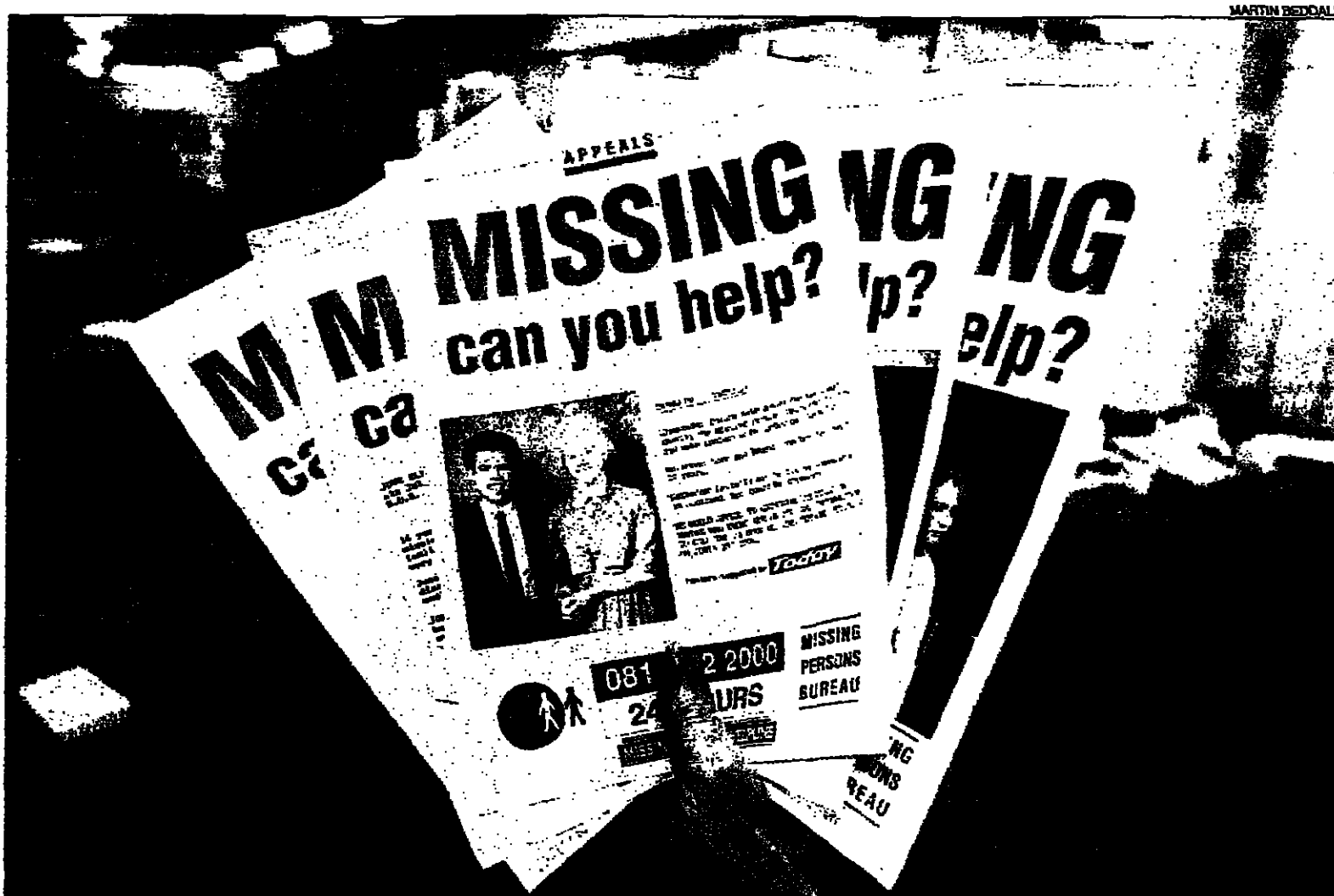
Elsie Hedges, the mayor, said residents were becoming acclimatised to international notoriety, but she was concerned at the effects of continuing media coverage. "We've done so much to revitalise the city and get a new image. This is the last thing we wanted."

At Cromwell Street, sightseers watched as police came and went. Some came prepared with sandwiches and drinks to sustain them through their macabre vigil.

A young Rastafarian teased a Japanese television crew, jumping into shot as the reporter attempted to complete his piece-to-camera. "Don't you go calling this no dump, man!" he shouted at the baffled journalist.

An elderly woman who has lived in Cromwell Street all her life said she had seen the houses change from neat Victorian villas to dismal, run-down bedsits. "You lot all thought Gloucester was full of tea shops and history, a bit of the city is still like that, but this place is like hell now and has been for years."

More remains found, page 1  
The flesh creeps, page 16



Poster appeals, including one for Catherine Costello, former wife of Frederick West, displayed at the volunteer-run bureau in London

## Yard opens national file on missing people

By Edward Gorman

A NATIONAL missing persons' bureau based at Scotland Yard is to open before the end of this month, the Home Office said yesterday.

The launch of the service, the first of its kind with direct government funding, comes amid increasing concern at the sheer number of people who are reported missing every year.

The lack of a well resourced centre has been highlighted by the search for the identities of victims found at the house at Cromwell Street in Gloucester, and the number of families across the country wondering whether missing loved ones may have died there.

At present, the only organisation with national coverage is the Missing Persons' Bureau, based in southwest London, which is funded by donations and staffed by volunteers. There is also a limited

■ The launch of a database on missing people highlights concern over the number involved — 250,000 at the last count

service at Scotland Yard. Between them they are trying to cope with tracing the estimated 250,000 people currently listed as missing.

The new national police bureau will be run by three full-time civilian staff at the Yard and funded centrally by the Home Office with a budget of about £90,000 a year. Its prime task will be to establish a database with details of missing people fed into it from police forces.

The Home Office said the bureau would be an interim step to a fully integrated national police database on missing people to be part of the new national police computer which would be launched within two years.

go missing and remain undetected.

Sophie Woodforde said many cases involved people who, for reasons connected with family disputes or other motives, had chosen to start a new life elsewhere in the country and did not inform relatives of their whereabouts. Usually they re-established contact after a few days, but some never did.

A typical recent case was of a boy aged 14 from Portsmouth who vanished from his home and was listed as missing for about a year. After his case was publicised in a national magazine, a woman in a village in Scotland rang to say she believed the boy was working for her husband.

It turned out the child had changed his name and had passed himself off as a 17-year-old. He was working on a YTS scheme, was taking driving lessons and was about to enrol at an agricultural

college. "It's very easy to change your identity. You can change your name by deed poll and once you've got a few documents with a different name on, you can be very difficult to trace," Miss Woodforde said.

Part of the difficulty is that unless police are able to show that a missing person is in a vulnerable state, data protection legislation prevents them gaining access to personal records which would help them to track people down.

Miss Woodforde was anxious to emphasise that she and her colleagues respected an individual's right to start a new life and not inform relatives. But she added: "Perhaps this awful incident in Gloucester will encourage some people who have lost contact with their families to get in touch, because there are a lot of desperate families out there who probably have no need to worry."

## How the victims will be identified

By Nigel Hawkes  
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE task of identifying the remains dug up in Gloucester has been given to Professor Bernard Knight, one of the world's leading forensic pathologists. Together with colleagues at the Wales Institute of Forensic Medicine in Cardiff, he will also try to establish the cause of death of the eight bodies discovered so far.

Remains of the first three bodies have already been taken to Cardiff. Some are believed to have been buried for up to 20 years. Hair, teeth and bones will supply crucial evidence. Hair is used to establish the sex and racial group of the victim; the teeth provide evidence of identity and age.

A chart of the teeth will be built showing dental work, fillings, missing teeth and any unusual features. These are compared with the dental records of missing persons who match the remains in height, age and sex.

If that fails, the scientists could use a newer technique to create an impression of the face from the shape of the skull.

Samples of the genetic material extracted from the bones might also be used. The most plentiful kind in a bone sample is mitochondrial DNA. Those from the Gloucester remains would be matched against samples from relatives in the maternal line. All these techniques will fail, however, if the victim was never reported missing or had no living relatives.



Knight: world leader in forensic pathology

## Brother and sister guilty over stepfather's 'revenge killing'

By A Staff Reporter

A WOMAN of 18 was convicted yesterday of organising the revenge killing of the stepfather who had sexually abused her as a child.

Karen Bigham, of Southend, Essex, went as she was found guilty by the Old Bailey of aiding and abetting the manslaughter of Archie Bigham, 46. Her brother Paul, 19, was found guilty of manslaughter. Both had denied charges of murder.

The court had been told that throughout their childhoods, Bigham had repeatedly indecently assaulted Karen and physically assaulted Paul. He was alleged to have raped two other members of the family.

Karen Bigham, the mother of a nine-month-old baby,

planned her stepfather's death after he was placed on probation for indecently assaulting her.

She recruited Vincent Scott, 28, and her brother, who went to Bigham's home in Barking, east London, in August 1992 to stab him to death.

David Spens, for the prosecution, told the court: "Karen Bigham was motivated by three key factors in her plan. Firstly, she believed allegations that Archie Bigham had raped and assaulted two other members of her family. Secondly, Archie Bigham had, in any view, sexually assaulted her in the past."

"Karen believed that the court which had let out Archie Bigham on probation had

failed and she wanted to stop him doing it again."

Judge Coombe granted Karen Bigham bail as "a mark of compassion" for her daughter until March 28, when she will be sentenced. Paul Bigham was sentenced to 3½ years in a young offenders' institution.

Scott, a telephone salesman from Southend, was also convicted of manslaughter and remanded in custody to be sentenced on March 28.

Gary Lee, 22, also of Southend, who supplied a lock-knife which was used in the attack, admitted attempting to pervert the course of justice by disposing of the knife and will also be sentenced later this month.

## Drink-drive loophole finds driver not guilty

By Frances Gibb  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A MOTORIST who admitted knocking down a student and leaving him dying on the road has been found not guilty because of a loophole in the drink-driving procedures.

Keith Lindon, 46, a businessman, of the Wirral, had pleaded not guilty to causing the death of Thomas Wellman in February last year by careless driving having consumed excess alcohol.

Liverpool Crown Court was told yesterday that the Divisional Court ruled in January that where suspected drink drivers can choose whether to give a blood or urine sample, they must be asked if they have good medical grounds for not providing a blood sample. If the question is not asked, the procedure is "fatally flawed" and renders the subsequent analysis of the sample inadmissible in court.

Lindon, who still faces a charge of failing to stop, provided two breath samples, the lower being 42 micrograms. Neil Flett, for the prosecution, said: "As the reading was less than 50 micrograms he was given the option for that specimen to be replaced by another specimen of either blood or urine and he said he wished to exercise that option."

In line with police procedure a blood sample was taken which showed not less than 87mg of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood, the limit being 80mg.

Mr Flett said that Lindon had been asked if he wished to make representations about giving blood or urine but not specifically whether there were any good medical reasons why a specimen could not or should not be taken from him by a doctor. "Although the police in this case followed the prescribed procedure, in the view of the Divisional Court that procedure was flawed."

Although the loophole has now been closed it is thought hundreds awaiting trial may avoid conviction after the Divisional Court judgment.

## Three-wheel police chase ends in jail

THE driver of a Reliant Robin who led police on a high-speed 30-mile chase through the Derbyshire Peak District was jailed yesterday.

Colin Slack, 25, left police patrol cars in his wake as his three-wheeler topped 70 mph along twisting country lanes, Derby Crown Court heard.

Slack pleaded guilty to charges of dangerous driving in November last year, damaging two police cars and assaulting officers.

Jailing him for four months and banning him from driving for two years, Judge Davidson QC said: "If everybody took out their feelings in this way, the roads would be a death trap."

Avik Mukherjee, for the prosecution, said Slack had argued with his common law wife when she threatened to leave their home in Burton with their two children. He jumped into his Reliant and drove off. When he returned, he spotted police outside the house so he raced off again.

The chase that followed lasted 40 minutes and saw Slack break the speed limit, cut blind corners and drive on the wrong side of the road.

## SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Skimpy skirts, strappy shoes, tank dresses, trouser suits and the new way to wear white

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IN WEEKEND

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## Vicar says women priests should be burnt as witches

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

AN ANGLICAN vicar called for women priests to be burnt at the stake as witches yesterday. The Rev Anthony Kennedy's comments were condemned as absurd by his bishop's office.

The vicar of Lutton with Gedney Drove End and Dawsme, south Lincolnshire, said: "Priestesses should be burnt at the stake because they are assuming powers they have no right to. In the medieval world, that was called sorcery. The way of dealing with sorcerers, male and female, was to burn them at the stake."

"It's illegal now but if I had my way that is what would happen to them. In medieval times, I would burn the bloody bitches."

Canon Raymond Rodger,

personal assistant to the Bishop of Lincoln, the Right Rev Bob Hardy, dismissed Mr Kennedy's comments as absurd. "He will cause hurt and offence when I felt we were way beyond this," Canon Rodger said.

The remarks coincided with the Roman Catholic Church in England saying that women priests represented a "serious obstacle" to unity between the two churches.

In a statement timed to precede the ordinations of the first 33 women priests at Bristol Cathedral on Saturday, Fr Michael Jackson, secretary of the Catholic bishops' Christian unity committee, hinted at a cooling of ecumenical relations. Theological discussion on the nature of ordination would continue

"but now has to take into account the changed situation in the Church of England".

Mr Kennedy, who retires in three years, said: "The New Testament is quite clear. God chose Jesus who was a man. Priests through the centuries have represented Jesus at the altar. Men and women are biologically different. We can never be the same. I do not see how a woman can represent Christ. Surgery cannot do it."

He decided to speak out after the church press began to advertise chasubles for pregnant women. Chasubles are ornate, sleeveless eucharistic vestments which are fashionable in the traditionalist wing of the Church.

Mr Kennedy, a widower, said: "That is what made me blow my top. I could not think of anything more ghastly. It is a horror story."

He does not object to women deacons and says he is a friend of the Rev Juliet Montague, the deacon in charge of his neighbouring parish. But he will avoid being in church with her when she is celebrating communion after her ordination in May.

He does not intend to leave the Church. "I was brought up in the Church of England. My grandfather and my great grandfather were both vicars," he said.

Mrs Montague's husband Fred was robust in his wife's defence. "He would have trouble burning Juliet at the stake," he said. "I treat Mr Kennedy as a joke."

Mrs Montague said: "He is a good friend of mine. I am fascinated by the use of this term 'witches'. It conjures up an impression of power that far exceeds anything we have. The next time we meet I might hand him a box of matches."

Mr Kennedy said he would not be seeking the services of the Ven John Richards, Archdeacon of Exeter, who will be consecrated as a "flying bishop" for the Canterbury province next month and whose duties will include giving pastoral care to opponents of women priests. "Flying bishops are schismatic," said Mr Kennedy. "All these sops are splitting the Church asunder."

## Poor to gain from writer's rich prize

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE world's largest annual monetary prize will be awarded to Michael Novak, a religious philosopher whose writings on free society have influenced political and social movements worldwide.

Mr Novak, 60, won the Templeton Prize, worth £650,000, for his work in advancing the understanding of God and spirituality. The prize will be presented in a private ceremony at Buckingham Palace in May.

Mr Novak, a former United States ambassador who holds the chair in religion and public policy at the American Enterprise Institute, a think-tank based in Washington DC, said he hoped the world's poor would benefit from it.

He said it would focus attention on the issue of which system of political economy was more likely to raise the poor out of poverty.

Mr Novak, a Roman

Catholic who spent 12 years in a seminary but left within months of ordination, is considered a pioneer in the theology of economics. He has published books on sports, poverty, the family and the moral foundations of democracy and capitalism. His writings are thought to have influenced the recent papal encyclical *Centesimus Annus*.

Baroness Thatcher said in her memoirs that Mr Novak "provided the intellectual basis for my approach to those great questions brought together in political parlance as the quality of life".

In 1981, Ronald Reagan named Mr Novak as United States ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

The Templeton Prize, begun in 1972 by the financier Sir John Templeton, has previously been awarded to Mother Teresa and Alexander Solzhenitsyn.



Jayne Zito, centre, with Liz Sayce, left, and Jo Lucas of Mind, at the launch of the charity's report yesterday

## Depressed children 'lack adult support'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

ONE in 30 schoolchildren needs treatment for major depression, but their difficulties are not being recognised by parents, teachers and doctors, a leading psychiatrist said yesterday.

Professor Ian Goodyer, head of child and adolescent psychiatry at Cambridge University, said that up to one in a hundred eight-year-olds is affected. The figure increases to 6 per cent of 16-year-olds. The condition, which is

more common in boys before puberty and in girls afterwards, is more widespread among the young than had been previously realised, he said.

The failings of the mental health services are also highlighted in a report from Mind, the mental health charity, which says some women admitted to psychiatric hospitals are being sexually harassed and abused.

The report, launched yesterday by Jayne Zito, whose husband was killed in an unprovoked attack by a man suffering from paranoid

schizophrenia at a north London underground station, lists a catalogue of violence against women ranging from outright abuse to unwanted sexual looks and remarks.

Mind's policy director, Liz Sayce, said funding for women-only wards and proper child care remained inadequate.

Prof Goodyer, speaking at a news conference at the Royal College of General Practitioners, held as part of Defeat Depression Week, said depression in childhood interfered with school work and the forming of relationships.

He said true depression was different from normal adolescent mood swings, but could be disguised by them.

It is often marked by social withdrawal, anxiety and loss of confidence, he said. Some affected children display odd behaviour, such as compulsive hand washing, which may lead later to the onset of eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia.

Prof Goodyer said many children try to hide their depression, fearing they would be blamed for it. "Depression is a private business when you are young," he said.

## 'Touching' complaint head resigns

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE primary school head teacher sacked and reinstated for sitting a pupil on his knee during assembly resigned yesterday in the wake of allegations that he had sexually harassed colleagues.

Richard Connor quit after 11 years as head teacher of Alderley Edge County Primary School in Cheshire after a meeting with county council officials. It is understood that Mr Connor was told that further disciplinary proceedings against him were likely.

The resignation ended a conflict that divided the school and triggered a campaign by parents against the school governors. Campaigners who rallied behind Mr Connor, 46, claimed he was the victim of a politically correct witch-hunt.

Mr Connor was suspended six months ago after a complaint about an incident in morning assembly at the 150-pupil school. He was dismissed but reinstated after he agreed not to touch, teach or be alone with any pupil.

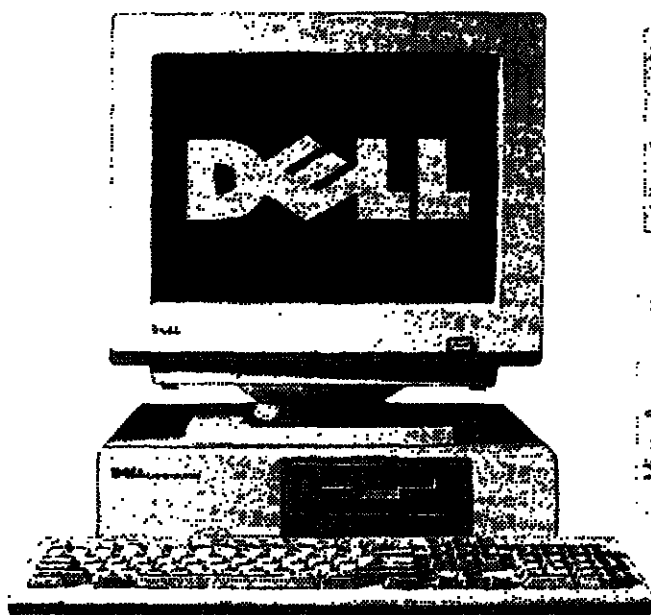
However, a further complaint about an alleged incident with a child was made within hours of his return to work on Monday last week and Mr Connor took sick leave pending the result of an investigation.

The turning point came two days ago when five of the six teachers and two auxiliary staff made a formal complaint against Mr Connor. Their allegations centred on his management style and claims of sexual harassment against two women members of staff. A spokesman for Cheshire County Council said: "We have accepted Mr Connor's offer of resignation. We hope everything at the school will be able to return to normal as quickly as possible."

Mofra Fox-Bekerman, a parent who campaigned for Mr Connor, said: "We are very disappointed. Most parents believed the school could have returned to normal under Mr Connor's leadership. However, it appears as though the pressure was simply too much for him."

Mr Connor, who has denied the allegation that he touched the child last week, was unavailable for comment last night.

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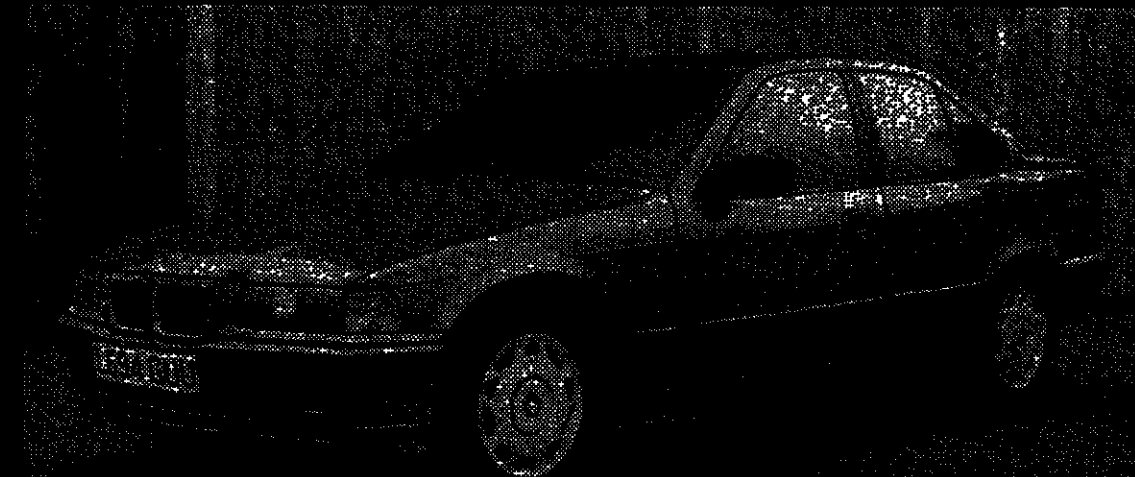
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Page 25

## THE ULTIMATE NON-DRIVING MACHINE

## Runaway Wren was arrested at airport by a 'former lover'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A ROYAL Navy investigations officer who arrested Wren Sylvia Panter after she jumped ship with her crewmate lover and more than £11,000 yesterday admitted having had an affair with her.

Regulating Petty Officer David Hardy told a court martial that because of their relationship he "felt compromised" and unable to interview her after detaining her at Heathrow airport.

Instead, he handed her over to a colleague in the Navy's investigation branch for interviews about her disappearance with Petty Officer Ian Luff from HMS *Invincible* with the money from the aircraft carrier's safe.

Wren Panter, 27, of Camberley, Surrey, who is pregnant, and PO Luff, 30, of Sandown, Isle of Wight, both of whom are married, admit misapplication of ship's funds and going absent without leave but deny theft or desertion.

Wren Panter, whose husband Lee, a sergeant in The Parachute Regiment, attended

the court martial in Portsmouth, said she jumped ship when it was anchored off Corfu last September because she was unhappy and wanted to return to England to save her marriage.

In interviews played to the hearing yesterday, Wren Panter said she was upset her shore leave had been cancelled when she was late for duty and had problems with the hierarchy on board.

On the day she and PO Luff jumped ship, she had tried to contact a senior officer about her loss of leave but no one was available and she could not register a complaint.

After going to PO Luff's cabin, she said: "I went to pieces. I said, 'If I don't get off this ship I will do something stupid'. He said, 'We will have to get off'. I agreed. 'I said, 'I have got the keys to the safe. I will take the money.' He agreed, saying 'We can't do anything without it'."

Nine days after jumping ship, Wren Panter and PO Luff arrived in Barcelona, having spent more than

£2,000, and gave themselves up to the British Consul. Wren Panter said that she and PO Luff, who bought clothes, drink, a cassette player and an iron, never intended keeping the money.

Asked about life in *Invincible*, she said she was not happy. "I got an unfair amount of grief and hassle. I just didn't want to be on that ship. I got accused of having an affair I wasn't having."

"No one was listening to me and I was being victimised. I spoke to Ian and I said I could get money from the safe to help us get back to the UK. I suggested it. He wouldn't have ever suggested that."

PO Luff told investigators: "I was worried about Sylvia's welfare. I thought she was going to have a nervous breakdown. I thought she might try to kill herself. I had to get her off the ship. I thought I was doing the humane thing."

He said he had sold their story to *The Sun* for £10,000, which was to be used to repay the money.

The hearing continues.

## World of fashion hails Westwood's red-light collection



Vivienne Westwood, right, with Linda Evangelista after being named British Designer of the Year in 1991

## Designers will echo British line

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE fashion world yesterday leapt to the defence of Britain's controversial designer Vivienne Westwood, who has been accused of degrading women by producing clothes more appropriate for prostitutes.

In her collection shown in Paris on Sunday, Westwood, 52, showed models with red lights on their heads, while others took to the catwalk virtually naked.

John Fairchild, of American magazine *Women's Wear Daily*, said yesterday: "Vivienne's collection is certainly the most exciting thing I have seen in a long time. What is fashion if not fun and exciting?"

Joan Burstein, owner of Browns, a leading London store, said: "She is one of the most forward thinking and influential designers. Designers all over the world watch her direction and will pick up her ideas."

Alexandra Shulman, editor of the British edition of *Vogue*, said: "What she does eventually filters through."

## Smokers give up after exile on Lundy

By LIN JENKINS

A GROUP of former smokers stepped on to the quayside at Bideford, Devon, yesterday to pronounce their ten-day smokeless island exile a success. Their attempt to give up the habit by stranding themselves on Lundy had produced no failures among the 31 addicts.

But the effort was not without its irritations. Not even the stunning coastline and real ale were enough to distract them from thoughts of smoking. Throughout the course the pub and shop refused to sell tobacco. Most sought solace in competitive games of chess, although at least one pair were said to have beaten the challenge with romance.

Helen Bates, 40, a businesswoman from Telford, Shropshire, said she had tried all cures including hypnosis. "We were just stuck there and had to make the most of it. In the end I missed by dog Turbo more than the cigarettes."

Jim Doherty, of Basildon, Essex, said: "The weather was terrible and it was very windy and dark and there were no lights. I'm definitely giving up smoking because I never want to have to come to Lundy again."

Some 15 per cent of male smokers would rather give up their wives than cigarettes, according to a survey published in the *European Journal of Clinical Hypnosis*.

No Smoking Day, page 14  
Alan Coren, page 16

## Security increased after royal papers theft

By A STAFF REPORTER

EXTRA security was in place at the Public Record Office yesterday after the theft of a priceless royal wedding certificate. Archive keepers at the office in Kew, west London, were checking files after dozens of royal warrants and other items disappeared.

Officials discovered the documents were gone only after they were returned by police. They had been missing for four months and were returned last November.

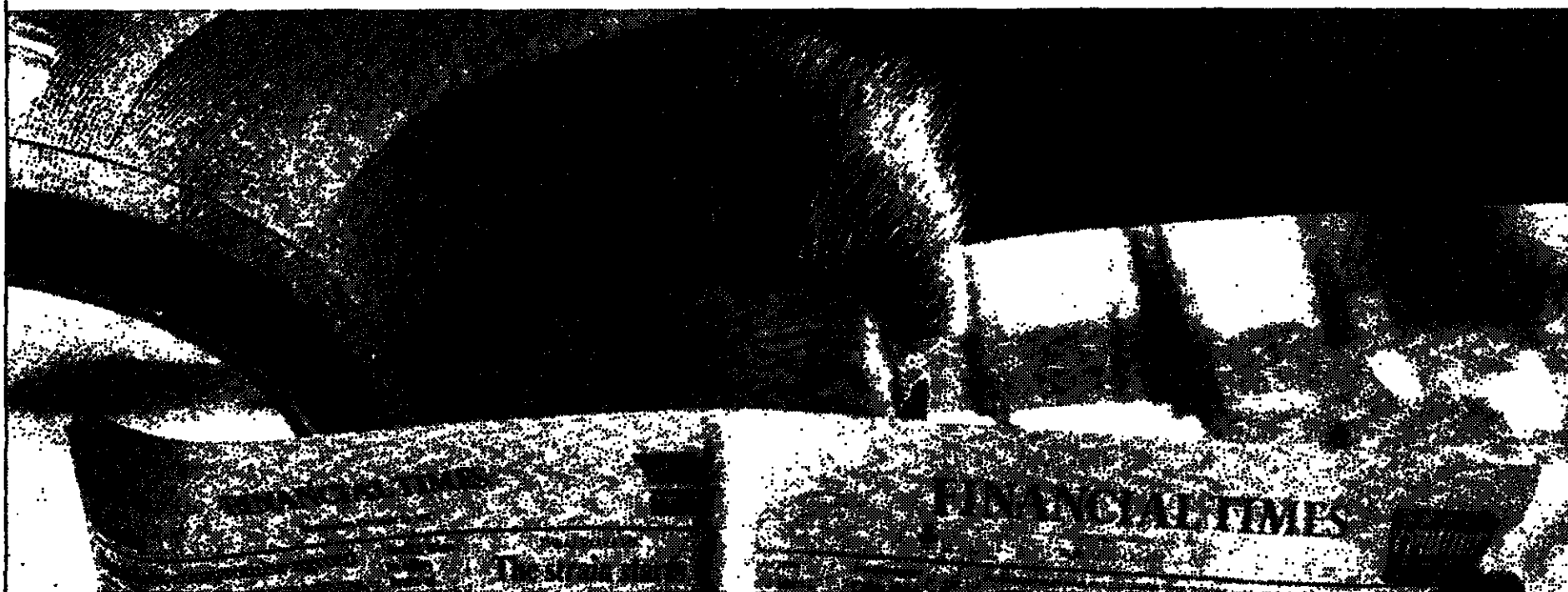
Three men — Peter Cato, 22, and Neil Brown, 26, both builders from St Helens, Merseyside, and Gregory Carver, of West Drayton, west London — pleaded guilty to handling stolen goods at Isleworth Crown Court, west London, yesterday. They were sentenced to 200 hours' community service.

The documents were found after police received a tip-off that the papers were being offered on the black market. One warrant, signed by George VI, gives permission for the Queen — then Princess Elizabeth — to marry the Duke of Edinburgh in 1947.

A Public Record Office spokeswoman said the documents were taken when maintenance work was being done. Secure rooms housing the files were cleared while workers removed asbestos. They were unsupervised.

Other documents stolen included a warrant signed by the Queen giving Princess Margaret permission to marry Antony Armstrong-Jones — now Lord Snowdon.

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## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Final dash

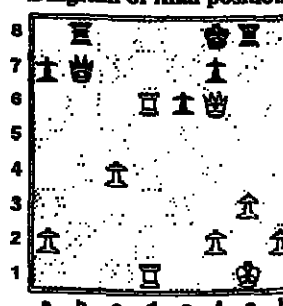
With four rounds to go in the super-tournament in Linares, Spain, fide champion Anatoly Karpov and FCA World Champion Garry Kasparov are involved in an exciting final sprint. Kasparov closed the gap by half a point in round nine when he defeated Gata Kamsky, while Karpov could only draw with Alexei Shirov. Karpov leads by one point.

White: Garry Kasparov  
Black: Gata Kamsky  
Linares, March 1994

### Caro-Kann Defence

- |    |      |      |
|----|------|------|
| 1  | e4   | c5   |
| 2  | d4   | c5   |
| 3  | Nd2  | c5   |
| 4  | Nf3  | Nd7  |
| 5  | Ng5  | Ng6  |
| 6  | Bd3  | e6   |
| 7  | Nf3  | Bd6  |
| 8  | Qc2  | h6   |
| 9  | Ne4  | Ne4  |
| 10 | Qc4  | Qc7  |
| 11 | Qd4  | g5   |
| 12 | Ch3  | Rg8  |
| 13 | Nd2  | Bb8  |
| 14 | Ne4  | Bg7  |
| 15 | O-O  | Bxd4 |
| 16 | Be3  | Be5  |
| 17 | Ra1  | Nf6  |
| 18 | Nd5+ | Bd6  |
| 19 | Bh7  | Rf8  |
| 20 | Qc6  | Be7  |
| 21 | Qg7  | Rf8  |
| 22 | Rd3  | Bd7  |
| 23 | Bg5  | Bxg5 |

### Diagram of final position



### Results so far

The totals to date are as follows:  
Karpov 8 points from 9 possible; Kasparov 7; Kramnik 5.5; Shirov 5.5; Topalov 5; Anand, Gelfand 4.5; Lautier, Bareev 4; Iliescu, Ivanchuk 3; Polgar 2.5; Beliavsky 1.5

Winning Move, page 48



## Sunbed link to skin cancer

## Image obsession drives tanners to ignore health risk

By RICHARD DUCE

PEOPLE are continuing to reject advice about the risk of sunbed tanning despite warnings that the practice can be just as dangerous as natural sunlight, medical and beauty experts said yesterday.

On Monday, the first established link between skin cancer and over-exposure to ultraviolet rays from a sunbed was disclosed when doctors in Newcastle upon Tyne said they were treating a woman who had developed skin cancer after using a sunbed.

Yet the obsession with an all-year tan, which has seen solariums appear in health and fitness centres across the country, has long been discouraged by a beauty industry that shapes the views of the fashion-conscious and now promotes fake tanning.

About 1,000 people a year die from skin cancer from prolonged holiday sunshine exposure.

Four years ago, medical experts issued a warning that sunbeds were just as dangerous as natural sunlight and the Newcastle case appears to have confirmed their views and their belief that there will be many more similar cases.

Eve Cameron, the fashion and beauty editor of *Cosmopolitan* magazine, said yesterday: "We have been aware of the dangers of sunbeds for years. We don't promote using them at all."

"Using them once in a while is not going to do people major harm but we now recommend fake tanning, which is so advanced that you actually get a natural looking colour."

In its June issue, the magazine will be promoting the idea that the "pale" look is now acceptable.

"Australia, the United States and South Africa are now almost hysterical about the dangers of skin cancer and people are not tanning as much as they used to," Ms Cameron said.

Research has shown that the UVA wavelengths from sunbeds can be just as damaging in causing malignant melanoma as the UVB rays from natural sunshine.

Dr John Hawk, consultant dermatologist at St Thomas' Hospital, London, said: "Using a sunbed certainly increases the risk of developing skin cancers, especially for fair-skinned people."

"I have not come across any clear-cut case where a sunbed has been known to cause skin cancer, so this is something of a first. Sunbeds in this country now need strict British Standard guidelines that include warnings of over-exposure."

"I would re-inforce the fact people should be very careful when using them. The risks people run are high. Sunbeds can lead to premature ageing of the skin, rashes, itchiness, prickly heat and burning."

Everyone has to take their own decision about whether they should use them. I would suggest people should not use sunbeds if they wish to keep their skin healthy."

The woman, in her forties, who is being treated at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, had been on only one foreign holiday in her life but consistently used a sunbed to top up her tan.

Doctors are convinced that is how the woman, who has sensitive skin, developed tumours on her breasts and buttocks. She contacted specialists at the infirmary when she developed a skin irritation about a year ago and the disease was diagnosed.

Makers of sunbeds who are members of the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic and Electrical Appliances recommend that fair-skinned people follow instructions closely and that they treat the rays with the same caution they would natural sunlight.



Angelo Marino, a divorced father from Swansea, and his daughter Christina, 6, join a lobby of Parliament yesterday to protest at excessive demands by the Child Support Agency and to demand the repeal of the Child Support Act

## One-year weather forecast predicted

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

ACCURATE weather forecasts up to 12 months in advance were predicted by scientists yesterday.

Within a decade, weathermen will have the knowledge to read the world's oceans and make reliable forecasts for holidaymakers and farmers, the Oceanology International 94 conference in Brighton was told.

Nic Flemming, a senior scientist at the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences in Wormley, Surrey, said the present barrier to long-term forecasts was the lack of detailed and regular sea measurements.

"At the moment, our weather forecasts are dependent mainly on observations of the atmosphere. But what controls the atmosphere is the way energy is stored and transferred from the oceans to the air."

Dr Steve Foreman, of the Meteorological Office in Bracknell, Berkshire, said: "For short-term weather, say about a month, the atmosphere is the most important. But after that it loses its memory. Once you go beyond three months, the memory is in the oceans."

Dr Flemming said the ability to make detailed marine observations was being studied by the Global Ocean Observing System, a UN-backed initiative to set up a network of satellites, autonomous buoys and unmanned deep-sea probes.

The network, which should be in place by 2007, will offer weekly and monthly readings

on everything from the paths of deep and cold ocean currents to the size and speed of waves in the Atlantic that can be fed into climate computer models.

Dr Flemming said the accuracy of short-term forecasts would also rise. At the moment, the Met Office aims to be 85 per cent accurate on a 24-hour forecast for the UK, but he said it was possible a ten-day forecast would be as reliable once the observing system was in place.

Dr Foreman said the benefits would extend beyond weather forecasting. Observation of waterflows in the ocean, which affect the movement of fish shoals, would allow fishermen to predict where catches would be good and the number of fish a year or two in advance.

□ New forms of sea defences are being developed to counter an increased risk of flooding due to global warming, the National Rivers Authority said yesterday. Floods of a severity now expected once every 100 years could recur every 25 or even every five years because of a rise in mean sea level, according to a study on climate change commissioned by the authority.

The new approach would involve abandoning some existing concrete sea walls that protect low-lying land of marginal value. The sea would be allowed in to form salt marshes and mudflats that would act as natural buffers against the incoming waves and create new wildlife habitats.

## Squatters face faster eviction

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PROPERTY owners would be able to evict squatters without having to go to court under a new proposal by the Lord Chancellor.

Instead of the costs and delays involved in a court hearing, Lord Mackay of Clashfern suggests that owners might apply to a county court judge for an "interim possession order". The squatters would then be given written notice to leave. Failure to do so within 24 hours would be a criminal offence.

Lord Mackay, who outlines the remedy in a consultation paper, also recommends that anyone with a right of occupation could apply to the court for the order to be set aside. The judge might then consider both sides' views.

Lord Mackay said: "Squatting causes hardship to owners of property, whether residential or commercial. It can result in loss of income and damage to property, as well as being a nuisance to neighbours. The owner will usually have to incur court and legal costs to recover possession."

He added that the present civil procedures were "somewhat biased" in favour of squatters because of the need to hold a hearing with both parties present and because of the time it takes to enforce court orders.

## Holidaymakers desert Britain

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE proportion of British people taking their main holiday of the year in the UK has slipped to an all-time low because of the fierce competition provided by the operators of package tours to destinations abroad.

Britain's share of the market for breaks of four nights or more has fallen to 32.5 million long holidays annually, the lowest figure since records began in 1951 and just 58 per cent of all such breaks.

A report from the British Tourist Authority (BTA) shows that in 1993 a total of 23.5 million long holidays were taken abroad. More than three in five people took at least one holiday.

"The figures paint a disturbing picture," said Adele Biss, the authority chairman. "Only last week we had the good news that record numbers of overseas visitors came to Britain last year, but our tourism industry cannot survive on growth from overseas visitors alone."

A survey carried out for the authority shows that the West Country remains the most popular holiday destination in the UK with 25 per cent of the domestic market. July and August are the most popular months with 40 per cent of all long

holidays taken there. The average expenditure on a British holiday in 1993 was £140, while on a holiday abroad it was £555.

In 1951, only 26.5 million long holidays were taken by Britons, with 25 million (94 per cent) people holidaying in the UK. Last year the number of long holidays taken by Britons both at home and abroad was a record 56 million.

The boom in holiday package sales could come to an abrupt end, however, when tax rises hit families planning their annual break. Peter Shanks, head of commercial relations at Thomas Cook, said: "There will be a general tightening of belts and people will probably take less spending money away with them."

□ A policewoman is to be the first British package holidaymaker to Libya almost exactly ten years after the shooting of WPC Yvonne Fletcher. The Metropolitan Police constable has booked a place on the first organised trip to Libya since all relations with the country were halted in 1984.

Holidays to Libya, which start again in April, are being organised by London-based Arab Tours. The Foreign Office still advises against visiting the country.

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## Tarantulas extend web of appeal

By ROBI DUTTA

PET tarantulas have become the latest fad of teenage girls and the craze is causing concern among spider-keepers at London zoo.

More than 200 tarantulas were sold last year through a chain with 15 pet shops in England. Julian Anderson, the manager at Pet World, another shop in north London, said youngsters were buying the spiders as novelty pets to shock parents and impress friends.

Television soap operas such as *Neighbours*, in which one of the main teenage female characters has a pet snake, have increased the demand, particularly among young girls, for unconventional pets. Mr Anderson sells up to four tarantulas a week for between £18 and £25.

Spider-keepers at the Invertebrates House in London zoo are worried that owners may get bored with their tarantulas, which can live for 30 years. The zoo holds talks on the subject.

Craig Walker, a spider-keeper at the zoo, said they should be handled carefully. Tarantulas possess scorpion-like fangs and their venom has an effect similar to a wasp sting.

## Party leaders back minister caught in gay scandal

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

DUBLIN'S political establishment rallied around a government minister yesterday as Ireland came to terms with the nation's first gay political scandal since homosexuality was made legal last year.

Emmet Stagg, a junior housing minister, issued a statement admitting that police had reproached him for talking to a gay man in a park frequented by homosexual prostitutes. He said he deeply regretted his conduct. Irish anger, however, was concentrated more on the police who allegedly leaked the news. Mr Stagg, 49, who is married with

conduct was undoubtedly indiscreet," he said. "I wish to make it clear that it was not illegal."

Politicians from all sides rallied round Mr Stagg, who is a Labour minister in the coalition government. Albert Reynolds, the Prime Minister, appealed for charity and restraint. Dick Spring, the Deputy Prime Minister and Labour Leader, said he would not call for Mr Stagg's resignation.

Some politicians contrasted the bipartisan support for Mr Stagg with the reaction to political scandals at Westminster. Councillor John McGinley, chairman of Mr Stagg's local Labour Party in Co Kildare, said: "The Irish people in general are a lot more compassionate than people in England. Emmet has done nothing illegal."

Politicians in Dublin rounded on the police. Pat Cox, of the opposition Progressive Democrats, said: "Mr Stagg threw himself at the Garda's mercy. I want the Garda Commissioner to find out the rat who brought this to the public in this demeaning irresponsible way."

The Garda Representative Association said there was no evidence that the police had leaked the story.

Mr Stagg was back at work yesterday, but friends spoke of the toll on his family. John Mulvihill, a fellow Labour MP, said: "He is a committed family man and it is an awful trauma for them. His wife is pretty upset."

Mr Stagg is regarded as an effective minister, though he has repeatedly clashed with Mr Spring. In February 1992, he resigned as Labour's Whip over his opposition to entering a coalition, but within a year was a junior minister.

Walter Ellis, page 15



Stagg: "Conduct was undoubtedly indiscreet"

two grown-up children, was close to tears as he broke his silence after weeks of rumours about an unnamed politician.

He said: "The facts are that in early November last I was sitting in my car alone in the Phoenix Park in a part of the park known to me as a place where gay men meet. Whilst sitting there I was approached by a man on a bicycle... He then sat in the car and... no wrongful act occurred."

Mr Stagg said that a police car drew up and he was told "in vigorous terms" to leave. Mr Stagg said he had no evidence that the gay man was a prostitute. "I accept that my



Olwen Morris-Cox takes her turn behind the till to serve Jean Hoffman, centre, and Kath Coles at Talaton's rescued village shop

## Villagers stand and serve to keep shop open

BY IAN MURRAY

THE till in the village shop at Talaton in Devon is ringing again this week because local residents refused to allow the business to die. They are the first to benefit from a new organisation formed to help small shops and post offices survive. Their example is being followed by other villages around the country.

The Talaton shop had been run by the same family for three generations when the owner, Sue Woodley, suddenly decided to put up the shutters last September. Competition from the big supermarkets in Honiton and Exeter had proved too great.

Within hours, however, a rescue committee had formed under John Carter, a local pig farmer who is chairman of the parish council. "All of a sudden, when it had gone, we

realised the heart of the village had gone too," Mr Carter said.

"The school had gone. The church had been amalgamated with another parish and we suddenly found the last essential part of our village lives was disappearing."

A questionnaire among the 120 households found that 109 wanted to see the shop open. Most were even prepared to pay money for a service they had passively watched die. They had soon collected £7,000 in membership fees, shares and donations.

One villager agreed to open a post office in her house as a temporary measure and the

rescue committee went to work. "It's amazing how much expertise you have in a village when you ask," Mr Carter said. "We had a surveyor, a solicitor, painters, electricians and builders."

He said most of the money raised came from selling £50 shares in the co-operative. "People won't necessarily get any money back, but just by keeping the shop open they are increasing the value of their property."

The rescue committee approached the Village Retail Services Association for advice. VIRSA was formed in January by Derek Smith, a retired farmer who led a

successful fight to save the shop at Halstock in Dorset in 1991. He decided to pass on his experience and set up a non-profit-making organisation under the slogan "use it or lose it".

"Village shops are not good at advertising themselves and parish councils are lazy about backing initiatives," Mr Smith said. "But the village shop is an essential service and has to be sold as such. There are no fortunes to be made but it is very rewarding. With a gaggle of committed people you can keep a shop open and make it work for the community."

VIRSA advised the Talaton committee to set up a rota of volunteers. Villagers were asked what they most wanted to see the shop keep in stock. A licence to sell alcohol was obtained as an additional facility and opening hours

were fixed to ensure the shop was open when people said they were most likely to use it.

Five women agreed to go for retail training with the Rural Development Committee so they could manage the shop and train the others. Trish Walker, the wife of a Virgin Airlines pilot, said: "The shop helps us to keep an eye on the old folk and generally provide a place where people can meet and talk. Our prices are low enough to compete with the supermarkets."

"We are getting fresh eggs and potatoes from the local farmers and after only a week trade is booming. We have got our heart back again."

Other villages clubbing together to reopen their own shops include Cromhall in Avon, West Tytherley in Hampshire and Manaton in Devon. VIRSA say others make enquiries every day.

## Father fails to save choking son

A boy of 18 months died after choking on a marshmallow sweet, despite the "valiant efforts" of his father to save him, an inquest was told.

Stanley Hooper, the coroner, told the hearing at Doncaster, South Yorkshire, that Philip Handley, of Rossington, did everything he could to save his son Connor last Thursday, including mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Mr Handley said he put the sweet into his son's mouth, expecting him to bite on it, but it lodged in the back of his throat. The inquest was adjourned for further enquiries.

## Shock charge

Roderick Minshull, 48, of Conington, Cambridgeshire, who allegedly wired up his car to deliver an electric shock when he parked it in west London last October, was allowed bail by magistrates at Marylebone until criminal proceedings in eight weeks.

## Adding insult

An undelivered letter returned to Emily Smith at her home in Oxford 30 years after she posted it to her mother was accompanied by a demand for 34p to cover insufficient postage. The Royal Mail promised to investigate.

## Blow to Sikh

Karnjit Singh Chahal, 43, a Sikh from Luton, Bedfordshire, who claims he faces execution if he is sent back to India, was refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords against a deportation order.

## Sickness wave

HMS Liverpool, the destroyer ordered to stay at sea after four crew contracted meningitis, was cleared to dock at Portsmouth after 17 more were laid low by gastro-enteritis.

## Leisure pit

Wrexham Maelor council has granted planning permission to a leisure company to develop an activities centre at Gresford colliery, Clwyd, where 265 men died in 1934.

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## Unrepentant Lyell defends his role in arms trial

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, said yesterday that he believed he had acted with "complete integrity" and "with some skill" in advising ministers not to disclose documents in the Matrix Churchill trial.

Clearly unrepentant and relishing the prospect of giving evidence to the Scott enquiry into the arms-for-Iraq affair on March 24, the Attorney-General said he was "extremely confident" that he had acted properly. He also came out publicly with a statement of faith in Lord Justice Scott, who is attracting some criticism within Whitehall for the way he is conducting the enquiry and some of his comments.

"You don't appoint a senior High Court judge and expect to get anything other than absolutely impartial justice," Sir Nicholas said yesterday. "It was so that these things could be brought out into the open that the Prime Minister appointed Lord Justice Scott, and I have complete confidence he will do justice and I have complete confidence that I acted with total propriety and — dare I say it — some skill."

Sir Nicholas made his comments after drawing the names of 16 schools from across Britain which will take part in the finals of this year's National Mock Trial Competition held by the Citizenship Foundation with the Bar.

He said he was looking forward to giving evidence to the Scott enquiry and being able to "illuminate" and "explain the position fully".

Reaffirming that had no intention of resigning, Sir

Nicholas added: "I believe I acted with complete integrity and in accordance with the law of England."

Sir Nicholas has been criticised by Michael Heseltine, in particular over his advice that ministers had a duty to claim public interest immunity (known as "gagging orders") for documents in the Matrix Churchill trial.

Yesterday he said that few people understood the law on public interest immunity. It was a system evolved by the courts which had been "developed and honed by the high judiciary of the common law themselves. It is not something I made up or that any politician made up."

He also emphasised that as an independent law officer of the Crown, he was not subject to party-political pressures. "I am following in a great tradition which nothing in this world would persuade me to let down," Sir Nicholas would not be drawn on whether he thought that the law on public interest immunity was in need of reform. Insisting that he did not want to pre-empt his evidence to the enquiry, he said: "I must maintain my self-denying ordinance."

However he said that the courts would be bound to look at what came out of the Scott enquiry. "That is its whole purpose, to bring everything out into the open, learn any lessons to be learned and take any appropriate action to be taken as a result."

Contrary to what had been said, there was no attempt to conceal things. That was a "complete misapprehension and I shall attempt to deal with that," he added.



Malcolm Rifkind yesterday, firing opening shots in the battle for Europe

## Opposition accused of cowardice

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR and the Liberal Democrats were accused yesterday of cowardice as the Tories flourished the defence card in advance of the summer campaign for the Euro-elections on June 9.

As defence cuts in the South West threaten the fragile Tory hold on the region, Malcolm Rifkind and Sir Norman Fowler joined forces to con-

demn the "bankruptcy of ideas and hypocritical populism" of the Liberal Democrats.

In remarks acknowledging the strength of the threat posed by Paddy Ashdown's party in the South West, the Defence Secretary said: "The charge we make, particularly against the shadow Cabinet and the Liberal leadership, is essentially one of cowardice.

They are unwilling to state a clear, explicit defence policy to explain what they believe should be the basis of the armed forces that are required in the 1990s... They wish to be all things to all men."

All four Euro-seats in Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset are held by the Tories, but they are vulnerable to a Liberal Democrat surge.

### In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: trade and industry, Motion on continuation of Prevention of Terrorism Act. Motion to establish N Ireland select committee. Lords (2.30): Debate on the Transport and Road Research Laboratory, Treasury Bill, second reading.

## Lords back Sunday trade

By JONATHAN PRYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

PEERS were warned yesterday of the "considerable chaos" that could follow a reversal of the Commons vote for reform of Sunday trading.

The Commons gave its approval to partial deregulation of Sunday trading in December. Yesterday the Sunday Trading Bill moved a stage closer to the statute book when it received its second reading in the Lords without a vote.

However, the general mood of the upper House was in favour of the Shopping Hours Reform Council option of partial deregulation. This re-

stricts the Sunday opening hours of large shops to between 10am and 6pm and has already received the sanction of the elected chamber.

Peers will be allowed a free vote on all three of the original options offered to MPs, on the first day of the Lords committee stage of the Bill on March 28. Detailed line-by-line scrutiny probably will not start until after Easter.

Earl Ferrers, the Home Office Minister, who opened yesterday's second reading debate, told peers that the Government remained neutral on the three options. "The over-

riding concern of the Government is that the law should be reformed and the current shambles sorted out," he said.

There was "nothing improper" about the Lords overturning the Commons choice of option, but Lord Ferrers said there would be "little advantage and much disadvantage" in doing so.

In a passionate defence of the Sabbath, Lord Jakobovits, a former Chief Rabbi, who was interrupted by a protester in the public gallery, pleaded with peers "not to abandon this priceless national and human asset".

## Missing feel-good factor holds up Tory recovery

Ministers brim over with confidence, economists are increasingly optimistic, but the public is not convinced. The most worrying immediate problem for the Government is that the electorate does not believe that the recession is over and that the economy has been growing for nearly two years. The gap between reality and perception is preventing any pick-up in the Tories' standing.

The evidence of recovery is clearcut. The economy as a whole grew by 2 per cent last year, while yesterday's production figures show a rise of nearly 1 per cent in November-to-January compared with the previous three months. The Treasury's monthly monetary report talked of "a trend of continuing recovery" based on rising retail sales, a strong increase in car registrations and a further rise in CBI output expectations last month. The Treasury panel of independent forecasters, now down to six wise men, concluded two weeks ago that the economy should grow by 2.7 per cent this year. They noted that "The happy combination of steady growth and falling inflation is not unprecedented in the early stages of recovery."

So it has not really needed ministers to talk up the prospects. Kenneth Clarke was justified over the weekend in saying he remained confident of "steady growth" this year, while John Major

was not straining the facts to describe the latest production figures as "very encouraging". Nonetheless, the public remains unimpressed either by the statistics or by ministerial rhetoric. The latest MORI poll for The Times showed that the economic optimism index is now at its lowest level for a year. This measures the proportion believing that the general economic condition of the country will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months.

The recent Gallup poll for The Daily Telegraph showed that two-thirds of the public, including a quarter of Tory supporters, believe the economy is not coming out of recession. The "feel-good" factor, showing how people believe the financial situation of their households will change over the next 12 months, is now heavily negative and much lower than last year's average.

There are several possible reasons. Time lags always exist between turning points in economic activity and changes in public attitudes. But the length and depth of the recession may have made people even more reluctant than usual to accept the evidence of recovery. After all, total output is only just

beginning to approach the level of its mid-1990 peak, while unemployment is still well above its 1990 low point.

The difficulties of the housing market may also have dampened confidence. While housing activity and prices have started to pick up on most measures, this is from a low base and experience is patchy. Previously high levels of debt have been reduced. While the scale of negative equity has fallen, tens of thousands of families still face this constraint.

The arguments in the Commons and in the press about the big tax increases next month, especially the extension of VAT to domestic fuel, have not helped. Nor will the implementation of the increases do much for confidence, however much economists believe consumer spending should continue to grow.

The poll findings matter since the Tories' last three election wins have occurred during brief periods when the MORI economic optimism index was positive. Other things being equal, their ratings are unlikely to improve until this index and the feel-good factor show a sustained recovery.

This should happen eventually, but it is unlikely to be in time, or large enough, to alter the fate of the Conservatives in the local and European elections in May and June.

PETER RIDDELL

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FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY  
IN HONG KONG

Washington has to decide by early June whether to renew China's "most favoured nation" trading status. It



**Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader, pictured in Shanghai last month. He says he dreams of setting foot in Hong Kong after UK sovereignty ends**

China's spate of arrests came despite a plea in Peking last week by John Shattuck, the US Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, for China to make "a grand gesture" on civil rights so that President Clinton could renew its trade status. But even as more dissidents were being detained, Hong Shattuck told the press in Hong Kong that



During his presidential campaign, Mr Clinton had vowed to get tough with "the butchers from Baghdad to Beijing", but realising that the tough policy would cost American jobs and that China was a military power in the Pacific which needed to be "engaged" and not threatened, the White House stopped badgering Peking.

Signals were sent that what Washington required in the way of human rights' progress was mere proof, in Mr Shamuck's words, of "intention". Instead China launched a crackdown in three cities.

While the action, undoubtedly ordered by the central authorities, may appear lacking in intelligence, the fault in misreading China may lie in the American conviction — shared by Sir Percy Cradock, one of Britain's leading Sinologists — that making strong statements gets results. As

China goes on the defensive, the result of this stand-off may be a policy debate for America. Peking, however, believes, with reason, that Mr Clinton will renew China's "most favoured nation" status no matter what happens, and State Department sources have complained bitterly of those in Washington "who are doing China's work". In Hong Kong last week Jeffrey Garten, the US Undersecretary of Commerce, gave a speech to American businessmen describing China's bril-

For the Chinese Communist Party, the dissidents are seen as dangerous elements stirring up trouble. Mr Wei, who has been campaigning for democracy since 1979, accused China's paramount

leader, Deng Xiaoping, of tyranny and has not "repented" even after his release from prison 14½ years later. Zhou Guoqiang is regarded by the party as dangerous because he was printing T-shirts with "provocative" slogans that might bring down the state. Liu Baiqiang, imprisoned as a thief, was sentenced to an additional eight years for "inciting people to overthrow the political power of the people's dictatorship" by attaching political leaflets to the legs of locusts.

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**FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN WASHINGTON**

The Pentagon's decision covers 600 military installations, including the Pentagon itself and its 26,000 staff. Given the sheer size of the US military, it marks one of the biggest anti-smoking measures taken, especially since the number of military smokers is significantly higher than the national average.

The ban will for the moment apply only to places of work, especially offices, the areas above the deck of a ship and inside an aircraft. It will not extend to private quarters, social clubs, restaurants or, notably, military prisons.

In 1986, the Pentagon began its anti-smoking drive with a relatively loose ban, which

contained loopholes allowing smoking in hallways, private offices and the like. Yesterday's ruling closes the loopholes and will restrict smoking by servicemen to leisure time. In recognition of the many who find it difficult to give up, the Pentagon will consider building "outdoor shelters" for smokers.

The number of smokers in the US military has declined over the years. In 1986, it has been estimated, about 50 per cent of army and navy personnel smoked, compared with 30 per cent of the population at large, reflecting the blue-collar character of the military. In the Navy, the Pentagon says, the percentage has since dropped to 36 per cent. The ban has been spearheaded by the relentless anti-smoking campaign of Joycelyn Elders, the surgeon general.

**Paul Barker, page 14**  
**Alan Coren, page 16**

**Delhi:** At least six people were killed when an Indian airliner that had been on a training flight plunged onto a stationary Russian plane at Delhi international airport. Five survivors were reported to be critically ill with more than 80 per cent burns.

Two of the dead were Russians aboard the Aeroflot Ilyushin aircraft. The others killed were three trainees and the pilot of the Indian plane, a Boeing 737, of Sahara India, a private airline. (Reuters)

## Rockets kill 18

**Kabul:** At least 18 people were killed and 100 wounded as rebels, encamped outside the Afghan capital, renewed rocket attacks. Up to 70 rockets hit the area around the Defence Ministry. (AP)

## Ferry capsizes

**Homa Bay, Kenya:** More than 40 people were feared drowned after an overloaded passenger ferry, also carrying timber and maize, capsized in a storm on Lake Victoria. Twelve survived. (Reuter)

### Bomb sentence

**Madrid:** Henri Parot, a French member of the Eta Basque separatist movement, was jailed for 1,802 years by a Spanish court for a 1987 bombing in which 11 people died, including five children. (Reuters)

## Suspects held

**Toulon:** Six more people, all known members of the local underworld, have been held in connection with the murder ten days ago of Yann Piat, the French member of parliament. Two men were arrested last week. (AFP)

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**Six die in Indian air crash**

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# Survey shows growing suspicion that First Couple acted illegally over Whitewater

## Subpoena barrage puts White House on the defensive

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton sought vainly to refocus America's attention on health care yesterday, as new questions arose about his own role in the alleged Whitewater cover-up and the special prosecutor's subpoenas caused chaos at the White House.

Rubbish bags were piling up in corridors for fear of throwing away any scrap of paper that might fall within the terms of the subpoenas. Six White House lawyers were doing nothing but process thousands of documents, other top officials were engaged full-time on damage control, and every employee, however junior, has been asked to certify that they have produced all relevant material.

Compounding the President's worries, a new poll shows public indifference to Whitewater has largely van-

ished since Bernard Nussbaum resigned as White House counsel at the weekend. Half the respondents now think Whitewater is a serious matter, up from a third in January, and 36 per cent believe both Mr and Mrs Clinton had acted illegally, up from 22 per cent.

There were also rumours that Robert Fiske, the special prosecutor, would issue a subpoena against Thomas "Mac" McLarty, the White House Chief of Staff. Mr McLarty has acknowledged hosting one of three improper briefings by Treasury officials on an independent investigation by the Resolution Trust Corporation into Madison Savings and Loan, the bankrupt Little Rock bank at the heart of the affair. Illustrating just how impossible Mr Clinton is finding it to control this

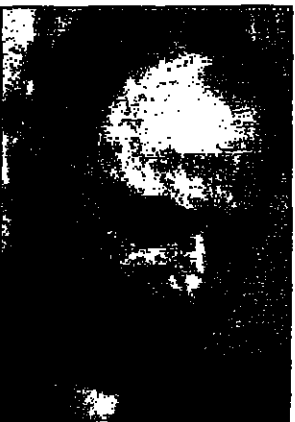
story, his impassioned defence of his wife on Monday merely triggered a new brushfire yesterday which aides once again struggled to put out.

Mr Clinton let slip that he had learnt in October of the KTC's request for a criminal investigation of Madison. The request did not become public until the month's end, so Mr Clinton must have learnt of it as a result of the improper briefings. In theory, that lays the President open to a subpoena from Mr Fiske.

In another development, two junior employees of Mrs Clinton's Rose law firm in Little Rock have gone public with their claims that they were told to shred documents. Jeremy Hedges said that during the 1992 presidential campaign he often went to the Arkansas Governor's mansion to collect sealed envelopes for shredding from Mrs Clinton. Clayton Lindsey claims the firm asked him this year to shred files belonging to Vincent Foster, the White House deputy counsel who killed himself last July.

Responding to the firm's denials, Mr Lindsey said: "I don't want to call the firm a liar, but I think the probability (of its version of events) is pretty slim".

Leading article, page 17



Nussbaum: resignation raised public interest



President Clinton returning to the White House after bidding farewell to Eduard Shevardnadze at the end of a visit by the Georgian leader

## Scent of blood has US media in full cry

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

For months media pressure in the Whitewater case dripped slowly, almost imperceptibly. Then, with the resignation last Saturday of Bernard Nussbaum, the presidential counsel, the dam burst and the Clinton White House was swamped by what is being described as the worst political scandal since Watergate.

Since then the Whitewater saga has not left America's front pages. "Hillary to the Pillory" declared *The Washington Post*. "Clinton's Muddy Waters" ran a headline in *USA Today*. "It's past time to come clean... the Whitewater affair is beginning to impinge on President Clinton's ability to govern," a *New York Post* editorial said.

The American media has belatedly scented blood in the water, and even those organisations with a tendency to back the Clinton White House uncritically have waded in. *The New York Times*, for example, which largely avoided the Whitewater story for weeks, subtly stopped referring to Robert Fiske as "special counsel" and began calling him a "special prosecutor". Two events on Monday showed how defensive the White House has

become in the face of the media onslaught and heightened public interest.

The first was a press conference, supposedly on the subject of Russia and the former Soviet republics, in which Mr Clinton came armed with answers about the scandal. He dismissed parallels with Watergate, thus reinforcing them, and came close to

losing his temper as he defended his wife, Hillary. The second event was an interview in which Mrs Clinton claimed that the assault on her ethical position was merely conspiracy-mongering by political enemies and their allies in the press. She told *Elle* magazine that the Whitewater torrent was "a well-organised and well-financed attempt to undermine my

husband and, by extension, myself by people who have a different political agenda".

In an unprecedented move, reporters have been given a detailed description of how White House officials will comply with Mr Fiske's subpoenas. Aides were ordered to dig through their rubbish and computer files for details of briefings on the case by Treasury Department officials. The same aides who, a few days ago, dismissed enquiries about the affair are now in contortions in their determination to appear open.

But such efforts may be too late and the impetus behind the story unstoppable. "White House responses to enquiries from reporters have been late, incomplete and grudging," *The New York Times* noted yesterday.

Most American journalists, for reasons of political bias as well as painful historical memory, do not want another Watergate, while the traditional reverence towards the presidency provides every incumbent with a ready-made carapace. But now that there is a danger of falling behind on the biggest story of the Administration, liberal instincts, veneration for the First Family and even objectivity may go by the board.



The Whitewater scandal's rising tide engulfing the Clinton White House — a view by Oliver in Vienna's *Der Standard*

## Veteran Mr Clean given top legal job

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton strove to rebuild confidence in the integrity of his White House yesterday by selecting Lloyd Cutler, a 76-year-old veteran of the Carter era, to replace the hapless Bernard Nussbaum as White House counsel.

Mr Cutler, a pillar of Washington's legal establishment who was admitted to the Bar six years before Mr Clinton was born, will be an incongruous addition to a White House full of baby-boomers. But he has all the qualities Mr Clinton desperately needs at this moment of crisis: stature, authority, experience and a spotless reputation. He also possesses the sensitive political antenna that Mr Nussbaum so patently lacked.

This is the second time Mr Clinton has turned to a prominent Washington insider to

rescue him — last summer he took on the Republican David Gergen, to end the public relations disasters crippling his presidency. It is also the second time that a troubled President has turned to Mr Cutler. In 1979 Mr Carter brought him in to replace the struggling Robert Lipschutz, an Atlanta lawyer, as White House counsel. This time, however, Mr Cutler is dictating his terms and has insisted he be regarded at all times as counsel to the office of the presidency and not as Mr Clinton's personal lawyer.

Mr Clinton may well be hoping that the appointment of a figure of such transparent integrity to be the guardian of White House ethics will help to ward off congressional hearings on the Whitewater controversy.



Nussbaum: resignation raised public interest

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## Returning trams' rattle thrills Sarajevo

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

The first trams in two years rolled down "Sniper's Alley" yesterday, shepherded by United Nations armoured vehicles and peacekeepers. Their return, which saw Sarajevans weeping and applauding, was both a celebration of peace and a remembrance of what the now-dormant 23-month-old war had wreaked on Sarajevo.

Two red trams, packed with residents, made the test run on the four-mile route that engineers and workmen had repaired. The continuous bombardment of the city had destroyed the electrical cables and sections of the rail had been twisted by direct hits. Shrapnel and battle-field debris clogged the tracks, unused since Serbs began pounding the city on May 2, 1992.

With the price of petrol averaging £10 a litre, the city's 300,000 residents have had to travel on foot during the war. Most civilians trudge miles each day collecting firewood and water, shopping and going to work. The UN and city officials hope the resurrected tram system will now make lives of Sarajevans a little easier.

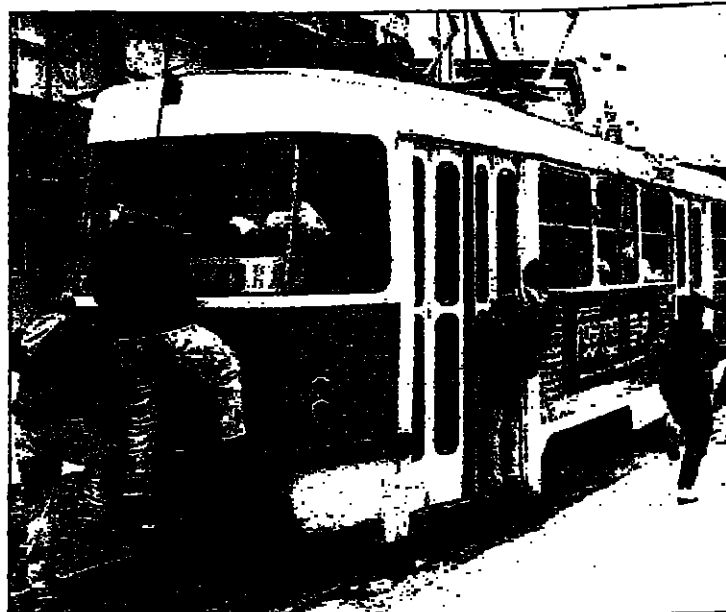
A Ukrainian UN armoured personnel carrier and Kalashnikov-toting troops provided security for each of the two trams. The Ukrainians kept their machineguns pointing towards hilltop bases from where Serb firepower had wreaked havoc on the city. When regular tram services resume next week, the

UN will continue the armoured escort. As the parade wound its way into the centre of the city and back, the clanging tram bell drew throngs of residents to the street. Pedestrians stopped and stared in wonder. "I never thought I'd live to see the day," said one woman, as the trams slid noisily past, wheels grinding and sending out sparks on the battle-scarred rails. Two teenage boys, unable to fit inside one of the packed trams, rode along on the rear bumper, waving to the passing crowds. "I'm happy," said one young woman. "But it is also so sad that we act like this over two stupid trams. It tells you a lot about what has happened to us." She explained that Sarajevo was the first European city to have a tram system.

"Beautiful — may God help us have peace," exclaimed Ramiz Sinanovic, 43, a refugee, as he stepped down from a tram at the end of its first run. "I no longer fear the Serbs. I pray the rest of our life can soon be as normal as this."

General André Soubirou, the French commander of UN troops in Sarajevo, said: "Sarajevo is a traditional European city and the tram is its traditional mode of public transport." He added: "I hope to have the tram line running normally by March 15."

Tram officials said that only ten of the city's 65 two-car trains were still roadworthy. Restoration of



Children grabbing a ride on the first tram to run in Sarajevo since the Bosnian war started nearly two years ago

even minimal levels of public transport in Sarajevo will do wonders to boost public confidence that the current ceasefire is a genuine prelude to peace and not just a lull in the fighting. A few buses are running, but trams clanging down the main road in Sarajevo signify a city coming springing back to life. "This is the first time for me in nearly two years and I'm the happiest man in the world," said Senad Hadzibajric, 37, driver of the

first tram. "I'm not afraid. The United Nations is guaranteeing our safety." The line used yesterday, which runs along the spine of the city, took the trams and the UN convoy down the dual-carriage way known as "Sniper's Alley". The road runs parallel to the river bisecting the city and forming the front line in that area. It is one of the worst-hit parts of the devastated capital. Nearly every building along most of the route has been gutted or

partially destroyed by fire and shells. When the line reaches the centre of Sarajevo, it turns around at what was once the most deadly junction in the city. UN engineers had to move huge cargo containers, placed to protect pedestrians from the view of Serb snipers, to open the line. Despite the relative calm of the past month, the trams had to wind through a gauntlet of such sniper shields, which are still in place just in case Serb soldiers resume firing on the city.

Before the truce came into effect on February 10, constant sniping made "Sniper's Alley" extremely treacherous, even for cars speeding at 100mph. Many residents doubted that it would ever again be possible for slow-moving trams to travel the route along which so many had been killed and wounded during the war.

Peace settled around Sarajevo in the wake of a mortar bomb explosion in the city's central market on February 5 that killed 69 people and wounded nearly 200 others. The massacre prompted Nato to threaten air strikes against any heavy weapons not withdrawn from within range of the city or surrendered to the UN by February 21. A simultaneous ceasefire has virtually eliminated shooting and shelling around the capital. UN officials are straining to consolidate the peace by restoring utilities.

British stand-by, page 1

## Germany deports Yugoslav refugees

FROM REUTERS  
IN BONN

GERMANY will begin the deportation of illegal refugees to rump Yugoslavia tomorrow, despite protests that it might damage Bonn's image and fears that men could face punishment as deserters.

A spokesman for the government of the regional state of North Rhine-Westphalia said yesterday that a chartered Romanian airlines flight would take off from Düsseldorf with about 100 refugees.

In Belgrade, the government of rump Yugoslavia told German diplomats that the planned deportation from Germany was "unacceptable". The Yugoslav Foreign Ministry said it had summoned Gerhard Schroeder, Germany's chargé d'affaires and senior diplomat in Belgrade, to tell him the move was based on discriminatory criteria, made without consultation and therefore unacceptable.

Burkhard Hirsch, of the liberal Free Democrats, junior partners in Helmut Kohl's coalition, said the mass deportations would hurt Bonn's reputation and that it was impossible to guarantee that young men returning home would not be punished by Belgrade as deserters.

In Belgrade, Charles Redman, the United States special envoy to former Yugoslavia, said after meeting Serb leaders that the Bosnian peace process was moving on to phase two. He was visiting the Serbian capital in a bid to capitalise on the diplomatic momentum and to "engage the Bosnian Serbs".

Mr Redman, who was instrumental in persuading the Bosnian government and Bosnian Croats to begin negotiations about a federation, said that his talks were preliminary and that he had come with no specific proposals.

He met President Milosevic of Serbia and Nikola Koljivic, the Bosnian Serb Vice-President. Despite Serb trepidation that Mr Redman would make territorial demands and threaten them with new ultimatums, it was clear that the envoy had talked in such a way as to win Serb trust.



A group of women gathering yesterday around a tap, one of the few working in the Srebrenica enclave, which lies about 60 miles northeast of Sarajevo

## Athens hails Mercouri

FROM MALCOLM BRABANT IN ATHENS

MELINA Mercouri returned home for the last time, and hundreds of thousands of people turned out to pay their respects at the start of three days' mourning.

Ms Mercouri's body was flown back to Athens yesterday from New York, where she died on Sunday after losing a long fight against cancer. As soon as Olympic Eagle, the flagship Boeing 747 of the national carrier entered Greek airspace, four Phantom jets formed alongside, and escorted it to Athens airport, peeling off above the heads of hundreds of Ms Mercouri's friends who formed a guard of

honour opposite platoons of sailors and commandos. Hundreds of airport workers lined the perimeter fence close to where Olympic Eagle stood, and with the VIPs broke into spontaneous applause, loud enough to drown out jet engines, as her casket, covered in the blue and white Greek flag, was carried out of the plane behind an Orthodox cross.

Ms Mercouri's husband, Jules Dassin, the film director who created her film *Never on Sunday*, was helped down the steps by Spiros, her brother. The cortege, flanked by a phalanx of police motorcycles, moved at walking pace past

the places that meant so much to the woman who said she loved Greece more than anything else: the Aegean Sea, the Acropolis, the theatreland, and the Ministry of Culture, which, during two terms, she occupied for a total of eight years. Every inch of the route was lined by Greeks who placed flowers and national flags on the car.

After nearly three hours, the procession reached the tiny chapel next to the Orthodox cathedral, where she will lie in state for two days until a funeral service with honours that are normally reserved for a prime minister.

## Russian rivals woo women for a day

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

BOTH President Yeltsin and his diehard Communist opponents sought to turn the Soviet-era public holiday of International Women's Day to their own advantage yesterday, mixing hard political messages with the traditional congratulatory speeches.

In a television address, Mr Yeltsin emphasised the need for a strong state, a theme which he hopes will help him draw support away from Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the extreme nationalist leader. Seated awkwardly behind a large pile of red and white flowers, Mr Yeltsin beamed graciously upon the female population, wishing it prosperity and happiness.

"A solid, functional state is the basic condition for stability, for bringing order to the country... in order to im-

prove the lives of every family," he said. Women's Day, the occasion on which Russian men seek to atone for the omissions of the past year with the aid of three chrysanthemums and a box of chocolates, has proved a hardy survivor, despite its Communist origins.

It also provided an excuse for hardliners to risk returning to the streets with a rally which, while registered with the mayor's office as being "in support of the dignity and rights of the female sex", was really a chance for supporters of the Supreme Soviet, violently dissolved by President Yeltsin last October, to gather outside their former headquarters.

The first major rally since the release of their leaders from jail ten days ago was

attended by only 500 people. Aleksandr Rutskoi, the former Vice-President, and Ruslan Khasbulatov, the former parliamentary Speaker, decided not to attend after a warning from Mr Yeltsin that



Zhirinovskiy: Yeltsin wants to outflank him

they would be rearrested if they took part in actions which risked undermining public order.

Viktor Anpilov, leader of the militant Working Russia party, who was released from jail with Mr Rutskoi and Mr Khasbulatov, deputised for them with a Bolshevik-style speech to the crowd who waved red flags and carried pictures of Stalin.

"We now have to muster the people's force," he said, adding that Russia was "on the road to civil war". He called on the government to freeze prices and provide free food and medicine for children. These demands, which the most self-deceiving of old Communists know has not the slightest chance of being met, are intended to rally Russia's poor to their cause.

### Scottish Power plc

TAKE NOTICE that Scottish Power plc has applied for an extension to its Private Electricity Supply Licence (England and Wales) in the following terms:-

- 1 Full name of the applicant(s): Scottish Power plc
- 2 Address of the applicant(s) or, in the case of a body corporate, the registered or principal office:  
1 Atlantic Quay  
Glasgow  
G2 8SP
- 3 Where the applicant is a company, the full names of the current Directors and the company's registered number:  
Charles Murray Stuart  
Ian Mathieson Hamilton Preston  
Duncan Whyte  
Michael Andrew Smith  
Nicholas Christopher Dwelly Kuensberg  
Colin Hyndmarsh Black  
Michael Kinski  
Ronald Garrick  
James Scott  
Registered No. 117120
- 4 Where a holding of 20 per cent or more of the shares (see Note 1) of an applicant is held by a body corporate or partnership or an unincorporated association carrying on a trade or business with or without a view to profit, the name(s) and address(es) of the holder(s) of such shares shall be provided:  
Not Applicable
- 5 Desired date from which the Licence is to take effect:  
1 April 1994
- 6 A sufficient description adequately specifying (see Note 2) the nature and situation of the premises intended to be supplied, separately identifying premises within the power bands specified in and to the extent provided by paragraph 7 below:  
All premises in England and Wales other than those which, during the franchise period, have a maximum demand at or less than the franchise limit in the authorised area of the following Public Electricity Supply companies together with such premises as may, from time to time, be specified by the Director (with the approval of the Secretary of State) for the purposes of paragraph 5 of Condition 2 of this licence.  
Eastern Electricity plc  
East Midlands Electricity plc  
London Electricity plc  
Manweb plc  
Midlands Electricity plc  
Northern Electric plc  
NORWEB plc  
SREBOARD plc  
Southern Electricity plc  
South Wales Electricity plc  
South Western Electricity plc  
Yorkshire Electricity Group plc

- 7 (a) Subject to sub-paragraph (b) indicate the total number of premises intended to be supplied in each power band as shown in the table below, together with the aggregate energy forecast to be supplied and the aggregate estimated maximum demand (see Note 3) for each power band.  
(b) If the date in paragraph 5 above is on or after 1 April 1994 then only Power Band A shall be completed and if the said date is on or after 1 April 1999 then this paragraph shall cease to have effect.

Power Band	Number of Premises	Aggregate Maximum Demand	Energy (Gwh) to be supplied
(A) Not exceeding 0.1 MW	NONE	NONE	NONE
(B) Exceeding 0.1 MW but not exceeding 1.0 MW	NOT APPLICABLE		

- 8 A description of the system of electric lines and electrical plant by means of which the applicant intends to supply electricity, indicating which plant and lines are to be constructed and which are existing plant and lines, and further identifying any parts of that system which will not be owned by or otherwise in the possession or control of the applicant.

Lines owned by:  
The National Grid Company plc  
Eastern Electricity plc  
East Midlands Electricity plc  
London Electricity plc  
Manweb plc  
Midlands Electricity plc  
Northern Electric plc  
NORWEB plc  
SREBOARD plc  
Southern Electricity plc  
South Wales Electricity plc  
South Western Electricity plc  
Yorkshire Electricity Group plc  
Scottish Power plc

- 9 A statement of the extent (if any) to which the applicant considers it necessary for powers under Schedule 3 (compulsory acquisition of land etc.) and under Schedule 4 (other powers etc.) to the Act to be given through the licence for which he is applying.

As laid down in Conditions 10 and 11 of the Private Electricity Supply Licence granted by the Director General of Electricity Supply to Scottish Power plc on 16 November 1990.

- 10 Details of any licences held, applied for or being applied for by the applicant in respect of the generation, transmission or supply of electricity:

Generation, Transmission & Public Electricity Supply Licence  
Private Electricity Supply Licence (England and Wales)  
Private Electricity Supply Licence (Scotland)

Copies of maps accompanying this application have been lodged at Regional Offices of the Office of Electricity Regulation and are available for inspection by the public between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on any working day.

A Mitchell, Company Secretary of Scottish Power plc;  
1 Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, G2 8SP.



# South Africa's Communist leader denies hidden agenda



Slovo: scourge of the apartheid regime

FROM INIGO GILMORE  
IN PRETORIA

WHEN the African National Congress published its list of candidates for April's first multi-racial election to the National Assembly showing 26 members of the South African Communist Party among the top 100, the National Party and right-wing groups claimed the ANC was being hijacked by unrepentant Communists clinging to an outdated and discredited ideology.

The principal target was Joe Slovo, the long-serving Communist Party leader and a probable minister in any future ANC government. Referred to by his detractors as the "teddy-bear terrorist", Mr Slovo, 67, former chief of staff of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, was the scourge of the apartheid regime. Always a

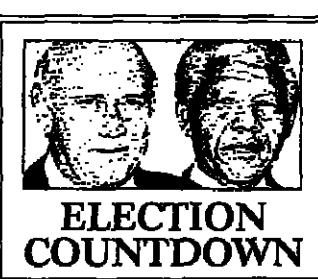
■ As the Communist Party's best-known figure waits for a seat in an ANC government, he says the party has learnt from the Soviet collapse and there may even be a place for privatisation

controversial figure, just over a month ago he escaped death in the latest in a long line of assassination attempts.

Mr Slovo believes that the National Party is playing the anti-Communist "bogey card" in a vote-winning attempt to project an image of evil Communist domination after an ANC government. He says it is frightened of Nelson Mandela and an ANC landslide victory, so it is attacking him in the belief that this will tarnish the image of Mr Mandela. While he concedes this may strike a chord with some sections of the white

community he insists that it will prove counter-productive among the electorate at large.

"This was tried before and the more we were attacked the more popular we became with the deprived of this country," he says. "They tried to make Chris Hani [the assassinated ANC leader] public enemy No 1, but they helped to make him public friend No 1 and he was regarded as a hero. Of course, one thing is clear - we are not unreconstructed Communists and the offensive against us is based on misinformation." Mr Slovo says the National Party



claims fail to take into account the changes that his party has undergone and its intimate bond with the ANC.

The party, he insists, has learnt its lesson from the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. He disposes of the question of Communist models by saying there are none, and that the party has been remoulded by the ANC. Among the lessons learnt, he says, is that no society can be run

without market forces. In the short term, he advocates a mixed economy with a balanced role for the public and private sectors. He does not believe nationalisation is a panacea for economic ills. Even privatisation is not ruled out if it was found to be in the interests of the working people.

The modern party has recognised the need for a multi-party democracy and Mr Slovo dismisses as "rubbish" claims by the National Party that Communist Party members on the ANC list will try to hijack the government to pursue a hidden agenda. The ANC's programme of reconstruction and development is their programme, too, and it is in their interests to make it work. It is wrong to see the programme as a starting point for a socialist state. However, he admits that they have not abandoned the goal of estab-

lishing a socialist society and says the party has never denied this. He does not discount a split with the ANC in the pursuit of this goal, emphasising that the alliance is not all-embracing. He adds diplomatically that at the moment they are at one on the immediate and intermediate objectives.

Dismissing his critics, Mr Slovo sees no contradiction in creating business confidence in the short term while holding out a long-term vision of socialism. "Business, both internationally and locally, knows that there is an alliance between the ANC and the Communist Party, and with this knowledge business has not been frightened off," he argues. "International finance is giving positive signals. Business has an instinctive greater appreciation of the reality of what the ANC is and politicians who want to rubbish it."

## White right faces split over poll boycott decision

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN IN PRETORIA

THE prospect of serious division within the white right grew yesterday as a cabal of former generals and younger Conservative Party MPs drew up a list of candidates for the general election, in defiance of a vote to ignore the polls altogether.

In Bophuthatswana, a member of the conservative Freedom Alliance which includes the white right, riot police stormed the broadcasting centre in Mmabatho, the capital, yesterday to subdue strikers and free the son of President Mangope amid a wave of anti-government protest.

The Bophuthatswana government is refusing to allow South African parties to campaign, to carry out voter education programmes or establish polling stations. A mass meeting outside the town of Mafikeng, attended by thousands of African National Congress supporters, decided to try to win the strike started by civil servants who wanted their pensions paid before the April election. As protesters moved away from the meeting they were tear-gassed by Bophuthatswana police for the second day running. Police also used tear gas at the media centre to free Eddie Mangope, the broadcasting corporation chairman and the son of Lucas Mangope.

Under the terms of the election act, a registered party must submit a list of candidates by midnight tonight. General Constand Viljoen, the former defence chief, who leads the Afrikaner Volksfront, registered a party called the Vryheidfront (Freedom Front) on Friday, minutes before the registration dead-

line expired, to keep right-wing options open. He was criticised at a weekend meeting of the far right's transitional "parliament" by hardline members of the Conservative Party. There have also been murmurings from the far-right lunatic fringe which have included assassination threats, and his personal security has been stepped up.

But during the past 24 hours pressure has been growing to keep the option open. The weekend vote was 73-20 against registration, with the majority led by Ferdi Hartzenberg, the Conservative Party leader. Yesterday, however,

secret meetings were held to try to bridge the gap between those who want to fight the election and those who do not.

Efforts are being made to try to avoid an outright split, but that seems forlorn. Among those pressing for a candidate list to be submitted are believed to be General Tienie Groenewald, former head of military intelligence, and General Kobus Visser, former head of the CID in the South African police.

The pro-election faction is also supported by Professor Carel Boshoff, the son-in-law of Hendrik Verwoerd, the assassinated Prime Minister. He said yesterday that the faction will meet this morning to take a final decision on whether to submit the list.

He said that the issue was still being negotiated, adding: "I am convinced an effort should be made to resolve the deadlock. We therefore think we should continue with negotiations in our own ranks to establish whether we should not participate in the election."

Although the National Party has been trying hard to bring the right-wing groups into the election process, it is against its own interests as sephologists estimate that the presence of the right on the ballot paper could siphon off as many as half a million votes.

The Transitional Executive Council, on which blacks are given some executive power in the run-up to the elections, yesterday suggested that tonight's deadline be extended, but the chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission, Justice Johan Krieger, a Supreme Court judge, made it clear the deadline was unlikely to be changed.



Thohoyandou: Replying to Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, above, the Inkatha leader, Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress president, yesterday dismissed the possibility of postponing South Africa's first non-racial election (Inigo Gilmore writes). On a visit to Venda, the nominally independent homeland in the northeastern Transvaal, Mr Mandela said that the date next month was sacrosanct.

## Israeli general admits faults in Hebron mosque security

FROM BEN LYNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S senior West Bank commander, Major General Danny Yatom, testified yesterday that the Hebron mosque massacre was able to take place due to "faults" in the deployment of troops at the site and said the possibility of such an act by a Jew "did not arise" in security plans.

The testimony, at the start of a state commission of enquiry, appeared to be aimed at focusing scrutiny on junior officers rather than top brass or Yitzhak Rabin's government. It pointed towards severe negligence in security arrangements, as well as failure in anticipating that a Jewish extremist would stage such an attack.

"The thing that is hard for me to imagine is that there were soldiers with weapons, a Jew or Israeli would do

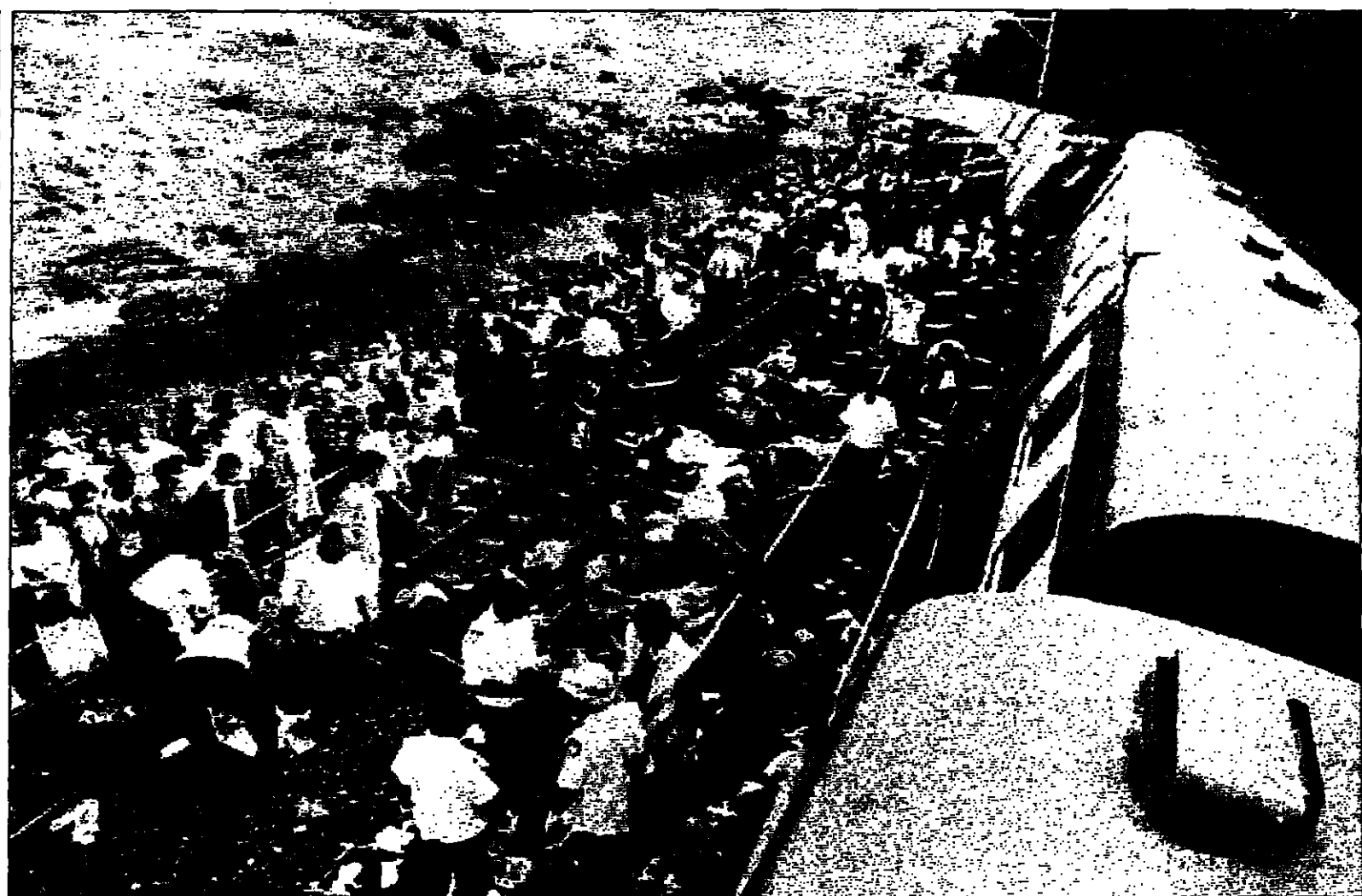
such a thing," General Yatom told the five-member commission. The possibility of an attack by a Jew "did not arise", he said.

Twenty-nine Palestinians died in the mosque, all of them at the hands of Baruch Goldstein, the assassin, General Yatom said. Palestinian sources put the number at 39. General Yatom added that most of the settlers were "completely disciplined".

Under questioning from Meir Shamgar, the Supreme Court Justice and head of the commission, General Yatom said that only one soldier was on duty in the Tomb of the Patriarchs at the time of the massacre on February 25, instead of six who were supposed to be there according to the site's security plan. Two paramilitary border police-

men arrived late, he said. In the Gaza Strip, troops yesterday shot dead two Palestinians at a crossing-point into Israel, after one of the Palestinians allegedly aimed an Uzi sub-machinegun at them, army officials said. They identified one of the dead as Ibrahim Salameh, a wanted member of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

Police also said they had arrested four out of five wanted leaders of anti-Arab Jewish extremist groups as part of a sweep ordered by authorities after the mosque massacre. Ben-Zion Gilstein and Noam Rederman were arrested on Monday night in a follow-up to arrests last week of two other ultra-nationalist followers of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, founder of the racist Kach movement.



Rescue workers, police and relatives yesterday among the dead and injured after the rail disaster at Marriannhill outside Durban

AT least 63 people were killed and 370 injured yesterday when a packed South African commuter train was derailed near Durban. Bala Naidoo, a police spokesman, said that 58 of the injured were in a serious condition.

Nine of the train's 11 coaches, crammed mainly with black commuters, jumped the rails in a rugged and heavily wooded valley about 12 miles west of Durban in the early

## Natal train crash kills 63

FROM REUTER IN DURBAN

morning. "It is quite horrific," Mr Naidoo said. Experts at the scene sought to establish the cause of the accident. He could not confirm radio reports that looters had stripped bodies of valuables. "There is a possibility. I can't say at this

stage." Witnesses said that bodies were tangled with wreckage from shattered carriages, and belongings were scattered along the track.

The train was carrying about 850 commuters at the time of the accident, said

Mike Asefovitz, a spokesman for South Africa's railway corporation, Spoornet. "It was peak-hour traffic for us. People were on their way to work. I have never witnessed anything of this magnitude." The nine coaches careered off

the track on a sharp bend near Marriannhill, outside Pine-town. Thabo Mazibuko, a survivor, said: "There were many people trapped who could not breathe. You can't do anything."

Rescue efforts were hampered by the rugged terrain, and the dead and injured had to be carried more than 500 yards to ambulances and buses. "It is very difficult to get there," one rescuer said.

## Venezuela bankers flee scandal

BY DAVID ADAMS  
LATIN AMERICA  
CORRESPONDENT

POLICE are hunting the fugitive directors of the Venezuelan Banco Latino after the largest banking collapse in Latin American history left a million depositors without their savings.

The whereabouts of the suspects is unknown, in part thanks to President Caldera, who announced on television last week that criminal charges were pending against 83 people involved in the bank scandal, including some of the biggest names in Venezuelan financial society. By the time police tried to round up the accused bankers hours later, none was at home.

Banco Latino's collapse accounts for about 20 per cent of the banking system's deposits and the charges include fraud and racketeering.

So far seven other banks have also collapsed. The political damage could be even more serious. Deposits at the bank included the pension funds of the armed forces, the national electric and oil companies, and the government's banking insurance agency.

## Conservation confronts market forces Seal cull booms in Canada

FROM ROBI DUTTA IN GRINDSTONE, MAGDALEN ISLANDS, CANADA

YELLOW-coated baby harp seals lie next to frozen pools of thick red blood smeared across the ice. In the frozen Gulf of St Lawrence, ecotourism is now moving into a part of the world where only sealers used to venture.

But the new, concerned tourist and greater interest in the environment have not prevented a doubling of the seal kill this year. The battle against the sealers being waged by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and an open-ended European Union ban on harp and hooded seal products is not over. Following a recent deal to sell 50,000 carcasses to China, the seal hunt will almost double from its recent average of 57,000 seals a year.

"We started campaigning against seal slaughter here 25 years ago, and on this anniversary we should be celebrating," said Paul Siegel, the IFAW's director of animal welfare. "But this deal could be a catalyst for opening the floodgates."

The organisation believes that the deal between the Terra Nova Fishery Company

in Newfoundland and the Shanghai Fisheries General Corporation threatens to open up a vast new market in the Far East, not in seal fur or meat but in seal penises used as aphrodisiacs.

While seal pelts have lost much of their value, a seal's penis can fetch about £87. This

season. When that finishes, they turn their attention to fishing for herring, lobster, crab and cod, with the cycle ending in November, but the fishing industry, the islands' main industry and raison d'être, has collapsed. Last August, the government imposed an indefinite moratorium on groundfishing in the Gulf of St Lawrence, one year after a ban was placed on fishing in the once-teeming waters off Newfoundland. Scientists believe that fish stocks, depleted by commercial overfishing, will not recover here sufficiently to justify fishing again until the next century. Now fishing communities such as those in the Magdalen Islands may disappear through lack of work.

Thislain Cyr, who has two young children, says: "What am I going to do this spring? I've got a boat and my fishing gear but I can do nothing. First people thought we were a bunch of killers, and now with no work they see us as lazy. But I'd go crazy living only on government subsidy. I have to work. All my life I have worked."

For the islanders, who at one time hunted about 20 per cent of all seals in eastern Canada, the month-long seal hunt starts the annual fishing



## Seoul chief condemned by Amnesty

FROM BRUCE CHEESMAN  
IN SEOUL

AMNESTY International has attacked President Kim Young Sam of South Korea for doing "next to nothing" to improve the country's human rights.

It claimed yesterday that under President Kim, who often recalls his days in opposition when he was placed under house arrest and went on hunger strike to condemn the rights record of military regimes, there have been dozens of political arrests.

In the harshest condemnation yet of Seoul's human rights record, Amnesty said political prisoners were still tortured and ill-treated. The attack on Mr Kim has come amid calls in America for the repeal of Seoul's draconian national security law.

The Amnesty report also listed new cases of torture in President Kim's first year in office. "Peace activist Kim Sam-Sok and his sister, Kim Un-Ju, were beaten and sexually assaulted by the Agency for National Security Planning in September last year," it said. The group claimed 200 prisoners were still being detained under the harsh law.

Don't forget Mother's Day. March 13th.

SHOW YOU CARE. ORDER FLOWERS FROM YOUR LOCAL INTERFLORA FLORIST. OR FREECALL INTERFLORA ON 0500 43 43 43. Delivered by hand. Straight to the heart. **Interflora**



## Browsers in the classless society

So you thought you were a boring CI? From now on, we are all Ms

IF YOU are reading this, drink cola at least once a day, have been driven to Weightwatchers by your potato-crisp habit, and do not own a CD player, congratulations. You are a rarity, a sort of social coelacanth. You have struck a blow against conformity and the politics of the herd. Unless, of course, this is someone else's newspaper. In which case, you are just an annoying blip, and we can disregard you.

For the marketing researchers are at it again. This week the latest news will come from the desk of a friendly chap called Colin MacLeod in Carat Research UK. My fax being close friends with his, I am able to bring you early and thrilling conclusions from his graphs. The insulting old socio-economic classifications — A, B, C1, C2, D and E — have been swept aside and replaced with Media-Graphics, a new, classless way of putting us in consumer groups.

You can be anything from M1 (Broadsheet Browser) to M7 (Popular Masses), who watch a lot of ITV and read tabloids or nothing. Other categories include Maggies, who read women's magazines but not newspapers, and watch their weight; M4 Telly Addicts, distinguished from the M7s because they read heavy Media Junkies (M5) who suck up everything they can get; and Media Hermits (M2), who are, frankly, a dead loss to advertisers. They watch less than two hours of TV a day and read few periodicals. They do, however, buy a lot of CDs, have huge building society accounts, and get through more cola and crisps than the Broadsheet Browsers.

I have a passion for such research. The addiction began when I heard a conference speaker explain that you can't sell doors in the developed nations if you photograph them shut. This is because your first bad memory as a Western child is of Mummy firmly closing the door on you, the howling infant. Therefore if you are advertising doors, you must picture them ajar, preferably with a woman's face looking round and smiling. Passionately grateful, the

consumer buys your door. This was followed by another great treat: a presentation from Ogilvy & Mather, the advertising agency, on its latest research about what women want. Graphs and videos were paraded before me for two-and-a-half hours, providing plots for many novels and concluding that within every decorous and responsible mother is a "wild woman" only too keen to get out. This is obvious to anyone who has ever seen a gang of suburban mothers ripping off their cardies and going ape at a flamenco class; but it is a pleasure to see graphs about it. Never mock marketeers: the proper study of mankind is man, and they are out there doing it. What does it matter if they only want to sell us doors?

The new M-system is particularly welcome because it classifies people according to what they like, rather than their "place in society". It gets rid of the old marketing problems of the regius professor who is addicted to *Coronation Street*, the fork-lift truck driver doing an Open University degree in Florentine art, and the graduate AB wife who has slumped into rustic depression and has a less enquiring mind than her DE cleaning lady.

IT GIVES us more dignity if aspiration and taste matter more than class. People often ask broadcasters: "Who are you talking to?" I only ever answer: "Anyone who's listening." Travel round the real Britain in real time, and you find too many anomalies to go along with patronising theories of "targeting". In the car-park of Deputy Dawg's transport call off the A45 last Monday I saw a lorry driver take his bacon sandwich back out to his cab to catch the end of *The Moral Maze*. In the railway compartment from which I address you now, there is a middle-aged black woman in a Rasta hat, eating crisps and immersed in *The Times* business pages; an executive with a laptop and a *Mirror*; and a patrician old boy drinking Diet Coke and reading *Top Sante Health and Beauty*.

Which all seems to me just exactly as it should be.



LIBBY PURVES

Anne Maguire, whose conviction for IRA bomb-making was quashed, tells her story



Anne Maguire, freed after serving nine years in jail wrongfully for running an IRA bomb factory, feels no bitterness. Cardinal Hume describes her as "exceptional"

Anne Maguire, a housewife wrongly jailed for running an IRA "bomb factory", has written her autobiography. It is called *Why Me?* (HarperCollins, £4.99) and over the weekend she was in Dublin to promote it. This week she has a non-stop schedule of interviews and chat shows, a launch party at the House of Lords and then there is another trip to Belfast at the weekend. Which is all very well, but in the meantime she also has some-how to keep the house clean, look after her grandchildren and make dinner each night for her husband and sons.

Luckily, Westminster Council has given her the week off from her job, accompanying children with special needs on the school bus. "Otherwise I couldn't cope at all," she laughs. "Look, this is the first time today I've managed to have a cup of tea. Every time I make one the phone rings with some newspaper or other and it gets cold."

When I arrived at her north London flat, she was squatting on the floor in the net-curtained lounge, talking on the telephone to the *Belfast Telegraph*. "Yes, yes that's right," she was saying. "I was sentenced to 14 years and served nine. Same for my husband Patrick. My son Patrick, who was only 13 when he was arrested, did four. Vincent my other son got five. Sean Smyth, my brother — he was the unluckiest of all of us — got 12. Pat O'Neill, our neighbour, got 12, reduced to nine on appeal, and then there was Giuseppe Conlon, my husband's brother-in-law, who got 12, but died in prison."

She sounds as dispassionate as if she were talking about the temperature for roasting the Sunday joint. In fact, this small, bespectacled woman is talking about the Maguire Seven, a collection of friends and family who happened all to be at her family home, in Kilburn, near where she lives today, on December 3, 1974, when the police burst in through the unlocked door.

All in the house were arrested and later sentenced for possession of nitroglycerine, said to have been used to make the IRA bombs that killed five and injured 65 in two Guildford pubs. No nitroglycerine was ever found in the house, although tests, later discredited, found traces on the

## Annie's journey to hell and back



Mrs Maguire pictured with her husband Patrick (left) and son Vincent on her release from prison

Maguires.

Mrs Maguire, a Belfast-born Catholic who had lived in London since 1957 and worked as a cleaning lady, was characterised as "evil Aunt Annie", her neat home was "a bomb factory", where she had taught her husband's nephew Gerard Conlon and the rest of the so-called Guildford Four how to make explosives, "as if they were meat pies".

In 1991, the Maguire Seven — those still living had served their sentences — and the Guildford Four had their convictions quashed. Sir John May, who led an enquiry into the Maguire case, said it was the worst miscarriage of justice he had ever encountered.

This did not alter the fact that Mrs Maguire, who is now 58, had spent nine years locked away from her husband and children. Anne-Marie, eight at the time of the arrest, grew up apart from her mother, along with her second son John, then 15. "He went through worse than any of us," she says. "He was left on his own; he had to face the world and its slurs every day afterwards."

Compensation is being arranged, but Mrs Maguire has little time for those who tell her that her misfortunes have made her a millionaire. "After the appeal people who didn't want to be seen talking to me before were running up to me in the supermarket, saying: 'You are rich'. I would say: 'You have riches that money can't buy. You have seen your children through their young lives and you were there when they really needed you.' For the moment, Mrs Maguire is not a wealthy woman. She lives in her mortgaged former council flat.

The book will bring in some money, but that is not the reason why she wrote it, or rather, agreed to have it ghost written by Jim Gallagher, a friend of a friend. "It was his idea and I thought 'Well, why not?' It helps because I don't have to explain any more. When people say there's no smoke without fire, I will say: 'Get the book out of the library and read it. I wouldn't say buy it — I wouldn't be that cheeky.'"

The recent release of *In the Name*

of the Father, a film about the Guildford Four, has made Mrs Maguire's need to tell her side of the story even more pressing. She admits the film is very powerful, but is furious at its inaccuracies. These include the Seven being tried at the same time as the Four, scenes of Patrick junior larking around in court — "as if it were a great big circus" — and one in which she gives Conlon and Paul Hill, another member of the Four, breakfast. Mrs Maguire has always maintained that although Hill implicated her in his confession, he had never been to her home.

She feels her family has been misrepresented in the film. She says that Hill and Conlon have never apologised for naming her in police statements, which they say were extracted by beatings. "What right had Paul Hill to give a complete stranger's name?" she asks quietly. "If he wanted to stop the beating he had lots of aunts and his sister and his mother. Until he named me the police didn't know I existed." Gerard Conlon insists he apologised by

telephone. All Mrs Maguire's family were beaten, and at one point a gun was held to her head.

She sees Conlon, not British justice, as the main enemy and has now cut off all contact. "I feel hurt, not bitter about justice," she says, "because I had brought the children up to respect law and order, to own up when they had done wrong and to tell the truth." Her husband had been in the British army and they had a bust of Winston Churchill on the mantelpiece. Their children are English.

Hill and Conlon now have celebrity status, but Mrs Maguire is not interested in sharing it. The book has got the story out of her system and now she prefers to spend time quietly with her five small grandchildren, who all live nearby. She answers my questions politely, but only becomes enthusiastic when she talks about eight-year-old Lee-Anne who is choosing her dress for her first communion. Her heroine is the Princess of Wales, "because she is a natural mother", and a hardback copy of *Diana: Her True Story* is displayed prominently.

It was this love of her family, along with a strong religious faith, that helped her through the years in top-security Durham prison, where a fellow inmate was Myra Hindley. "I had a date when I would be with my family again and I was working for that date. I knew they couldn't keep me any longer."

She has fared much better than some of her menfolk. Her husband, who is 61 and had a drinking problem before he was arrested, has not worked since he came out of prison and nor has Patrick, who at 32 is still receiving counselling.

Mrs Maguire does all she can to help other victims of injustice. "I hope that I am doing my best to get all I can out of this terrible situation," she says. "I tell people not to be so quick to condemn — which I used to be — and to realise that this can happen to you. You don't even have to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. You can be sitting quietly in your home and your world can suddenly turn over."

JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

## Why the poor smokers bear the tax burden

Income not health dictates the success of no-smoking campaigns

Smokers are being driven into a corner. As fashion has changed and health worries multiplied, the only group of people among whom it is still expected that you will accept a cigarette if offered one are the poor. An independent study published today shows that smoking has halved among better-off families in Britain. But the poor smoke just as much as they did 20 years ago.

Hard-up women, often single parents, are the most inveterate smokers. Even if they are in work, the study finds, they are likely to be trapped in "one of five jobs that all begin with 'C': cooks, cleaners, cashiers, child-minders and clerks". They often feel that "they exist solely to service their children's daily needs". They feel that "smoking is their only luxury. They defend it; aggressively sometimes."

Today is National Non-Smoking Day. Self-congratu-

latory pronouncements will abound. But the absorbing new report by Alan Marsh and Stephen McKay of the Policy Studies Institute raises awkward questions of social equity. The official line is clear: smoking is bad, and we shall cut it out by price rises. In November's Budget, Kenneth Clarke made cigarettes 5 per cent dearer. The plan is to keep prices well ahead of inflation. For every 1 per cent rise, it is estimated, consumption falls by 0.5 per cent.

But such statistical logic has severe social limits, it turns out. The people who are being convinced that they should give up are the people who are not short of a bob or two anyway. The tough question for Virginia Bottomley, as Health Secretary, is this: if cigarette taxation falls most heavily on the poor, and even that (as this study shows) means that some children are kept short of necessities, how do you justify it?



Teddy boys, 1956: but who will be giving up today?

The low-income women and men in the institute's report mostly smoke between 15 and 17 cigarettes a day. They are spending about 15 per cent of their income on cigarettes. Most of this comes from the state, in welfare payments, including child benefit. So, to put it another way round, tobacco taxes claw back money from the poor which

the state (under another heading) has decided the poor ought to have.

Of course, you can say such smokers are just feckless — the classic middle-class response. But even the poor — perhaps especially the poor — deserve a few pleasures in life. It is easy to tell others to forgo the joys you have decided to turn away from. This was the line taken

by the 19th-century teetotal movement.

Who are the poor who smoke? Among the 14,400 low-income families in the study, Marsh and McKay found that the chances of being a smoker was greatest among single parents who had never been married; people living in council flats; those with no significant educational qualifications; and among those in the worst-paid jobs.

Many people — from all social classes — try smoking at some point. The test is this: who gives it up? Marsh and McKay point to a cycle of smoking in "sink" estates. From the 1970s onwards, more and more school leavers acquired decent qualifications, a white-collar job and, in due course, a spouse and a house. But those who were left behind were "a new kind of early clustering" and they "gathered in numbers in the prematurely ageing council estates".

Speaking almost zoologically, Marsh and McKay say that this pattern — due to the changing job market, compounded by public housing policy — "created a protected

habitat for high levels of smoking that have not been seen elsewhere since the early 1960s". The denizens became "the poorest among Britain's low-income parents". And they were still smoking. But, of course, not all the poor smoke. There is nothing deterministic about all this. Black single parents are more likely to live in poverty than whites, but they are much less likely to smoke. Asian women smoke hardly at all. Getting married makes a difference (unless you marry a smoker). There is then a stronger chance of becoming a two-income family — which is the best way off the poverty line, and off cigarettes.

Once, cigarette smoking was a treasured symbol of female emancipation. The Fast Woman of the Forties, embodied in the young Lauren Bacall, was unimaginable without a Lucky Strike. Now cigarettes have become the symbol of female entrapment. But is British tax policy making the trap tighter, instead of easing it? It begins to seem so.

PAUL BARKER

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# The fairway to success

Perfecting your seven-iron? Learning golf etiquette in your multi-coloured plaid trousers? There must be better ways for women to climb the male-dominated corporate ladder, says Kate Muir

**M**ight as well tie ourselves to the kitchen sink and get as barefoot and pregnant as possible if the only way to succeed in a man's world is joining the Executive Women's Golf League. It is the horrible truth: America's businesswomen are swarming to learn golf in order to club their way through the glass ceiling.

Having always been a person who firmly believed in leaving no male bastion unstormed, I feel the golf course is the place to draw the line. When dealing with golf itself — and more unpleasantly, the 19th hole — questions of taste, civility and sanity should outweigh those of equality. No woman should have to force herself into a pastel diamond-patterned Pringle jumper in the name of feminism.

Two years ago, the Executive Women's Golf League was founded, as you might expect, in the vulgar wastes of Florida. Frantically, it now has 63 chapters in different states, and pretensions to world domination. Already there have been enquiries from businesswomen in Scotland, England and Paris who wish to set up branches. For Britain, it is only a matter of time before masculine nibbicks and furry pompadour club covers take over from faux-Chanel and Mulberry briefcases as the tools of the lady executive's trade.

The interchangeability of the links and the boardroom as sites for clinching deals is a sign of the all-encompassing corporate culture of America. And where men-in-suits go, women-in-suits must follow — or so Nancy Oliver, the founder of the Executive Women's Golf League, claims. She stresses the myriad benefits for women who take up the game: "Golf is a relationship-driven sport, and a woman who has spent four friendly hours on a golf course strengthening that business relationship is going to find it much easier to propose a deal than one who starts by cold-calling."

Ms Oliver says that businessmen look at their female colleagues "with new eyes" when they propose a friendly game of golf. "She gains more respect. Men think she's got more salt to her." So, it appears, do bosses: a recent survey by Hyatt Hotels shows that a woman with a handicap below 10 makes \$30,000 more than a man with the same skills. The league expects to have 6,000 members by the end of the year and 25,000 women subscribe to its newsletter. And curiously and curiously, 41 per cent of new golfers are female.

Of course, a woman cannot just grab a bag of clubs and head out on to the fairway. Oh no. This is a

"business golf situation" says Ms Oliver, and etiquette must be observed. Ps and Qs must be minded. Proper attire must be worn. This is why Ms Oliver's league runs a six-week "boot camp" where women golfers practise swings in private and discuss "golf courtesy" over a nice glass of chardonnay.

Courtesy includes tricky tribal rituals such as when to tip the caddie, and when to tip the boy at the bagdrop. (The answer is: a dollar when he lifts the bag from the car boot, a dollar afterwards when he cleans the clubs, and another dollar when he puts them back in the car. Golf is not cheap.) "Not tipping the club staff in front of a business client is a major faux pas," says Ms Oliver.

She claims that women do not want men to see them stumbling and messing around on their first tries at the game, shouting and shouting when they should be shouting in secret and then pouncing is the best method. "I want them to be as confident on the green as they are in the office. If they feel they have two left feet, they will lose the respect gained at work."

Ms Oliver has many success stories to share, of female promotions, deals and headhunting born of clubhouse camaraderie. She also points out that it is often less embarrassing for a woman to invite a male client to her golf club than to a bar for a drink. Golf is, after all, not for sensualists. It should be noted that one in eight male executives who play golf say the sport is more important to them than sex.

*Business Week* magazine recently recommended that its women readers take up the game. But what all these insidious golf-promoters fail to realise is that businessmen took to the golf course because they found it impossible to hold a normal conversation, except in the context of sport. Women are perfectly capable of forming friendships without having the crutch of a golf club in their hands.

For once you touch that five-iron or putter, the contamination begins. You will be assimilated into golfers' culture, a fate much worse than missing out on an occasional business contract. At Christmas, people will give you stocking-fillers books such as "100 Great Golf Jokes". You will start to wear polyester stay-press trousers in multicoloured plaids, towelling caps with green visors and unforgivable two-tone shoes.

Eventually, you will purchase a set of "ladies' putters" with fuchsia, aqua and powder-blue grips and matching heads. Then you will be truly lost.

◀ A woman with a handicap below 10 makes \$30,000 more than a man



Laura Davies, champion golfer: women are advised to be as confident on the green as in the office

## Unravelling the mysteries of cufflinks

### Couples I have broken up

WHEN John Lennon, on stage at the London Palladium for a 1963 Royal Command Performance, looked up towards the royal box and suggested that certain members of the audience not in the cheap seats might "just rattle your jewellery" he was probably not thinking primarily of Prince Charles.

But the theft of the Prince of Wales's trinkets from his St James's Palace apartments highlights how the royal family are similar to yet different from the rest of us. Similar in that they too now seem easy victims for burglars. But the Prince's main difference from myself, and most other men I know, is when it comes to cufflinks: not that his are more expensive (although undoubtedly they are), but that they appear to be still in pairs.

Most of the rest of us, when we open the scuffed little leather box or poke among the contents of the pub ashtray where we keep what passes for our cockcomb's cornucopia, invariably find only one at a time. Cufflinks, like socks, seem subject to their own incorrigible, natural laws of reduction from the plural to the singular, and therefore the useless. Burglars would be lucky to get a look in compared with the conspiracy of vacuum cleaners, plugholes and plant beds that swallow these tokens of male poppiness one at a time. There are other forms of attrition: it took no time for the little pearl in an attractive telegin given me as a present by my wife to liberate itself, leaving me with a strangely spartan-looking empty setting. Jade links picked up as a souvenir of Hong Kong remain a theoretical pair, except that one is a steel pivot only, the superglue that held the jade having proved less than super.

It is easy to dismiss all this as male sloppiness, proof that only women know how to wear and care for jewels. Perhaps we are out of the habit. In the 16th and 17th centuries, jewellery was at least as much a man's prerogative as a woman's. A reaction against male ostentation over the following 200 years has seen it minimised so that, if one ignores the accoutrements of such as the medalion men, tie-pins and cufflinks are all that have lasted.

I bought my first pair of cufflinks in my second term at Oxford, a gold-plated set bearing the college coat of arms. They cost about £3.50. It took almost another term before I realised they were considered socially naïf among those who

had family heirlooms to flash on their sleeves at formal dinners. They were relegated to their box, only to come into their own two decades later, now that sporting the old college insignia can pass as middle-aged nostalgia. But there is another, more important reason they have regained a favoured place in my top drawer, apart, that is, from there still being two of them: their simple means of fastening: a tiny straightforward pivoting bar.

In the esoteric science of cuff linkage, this is, of course, the equivalent of a clip-on bow tie — a bit vulgar. The best links, from the purist point of view, are those that come attached to little chains. I think the logic in this class distinction is, like most snobbery, based on antiquity and impracticality. The chain is a simple device, almost certainly of ancient use and therefore assumed elegance; the pivot is nifty, mechanical, smacks of 20th-century American functionalism and is therefore not quite proper. The fact that it can easily be managed one-handed when one is already wearing the shirt also tells against it, suggesting, you see, that one is reduced to putting on one's own cufflinks.

At the other extreme I classify a pair I bought in Gdansk almost ten years ago, pretty but inexpensive, a few blobs of Baltic amber set in silver, with a fastening mechanism of near-medieval simplicity except that they totally defy the manual dexterity of the one-handed: these cufflinks require the services of a gentleman's valet or a woman's maid. In short, they have an impeccable social pedigree but are so awkward as to be virtually unwearable.

But although jewellery should be made to be worn, that is not why most of us have it. Male jewellery tends to be an accumulation of hand-me-downs and occasional items — things with some pull on our emotions. It is the Prince's tragedy that his extraordinary family background not only means the items stolen have a high intrinsic monetary worth, but also that their sentimental associations also work by proxy for others.

Rather than detracting from their value, as detectives optimistically suppose, the fact of whose they are may count at least as much as what they are. Happily, one could hardly say the same for my old college cufflinks. Now if I could only find the other one.

PETER MILLAR



Cufflinks stolen from the Prince of Wales

## Can Ireland accept its gay streak?

Ireland is riveted by the scandal of the minister and the male prostitute — but a new spirit of tolerance in the republic will probably rule the day

**M**ore "private tragedy" in the government — only this time in Ireland. Emmett Stagg, a minister of state in the coalition administration of Albert Reynolds, has been caught in Dublin's Phoenix Park — a known haunt of the republic's doughty homosexual brotherhood — exchanging words in the dark with a suspected male prostitute.

No offence was committed, but Ireland is scandalised. The very idea that a member of the government might have been cruising the park in search of male company is enough to have Dublin's matrons reaching for their rosaries and strong men a pint of stout with a whiskey chaser.

Mr Reynolds immediately called on his countrymen and women to show "charity", while his deputy, Dick Spring, Leader of the Labour Party, to which Mr Stagg belongs, spoke of "a deep, personal tragedy" and of a "sad, regrettable affair".

The nation, however, was riveted. Rumour had been rife for some time and when the story finally broke (the result, apparently, of a police leak), the gossip was up and running faster than an odds-on favourite at the Galway races.

Mr Stagg himself, who admits only to "an indiscreet meeting", is 49 years old and married with two children. As he considers his future, the government is already moving to steer the incident into the supposed backwater of personal relations, quite separate from affairs of state. How successful they will be remains to be seen.

At least the opposition parties are not attempting to make political capital out of what took place. One Fine Gael member called the politician who spilled the beans "an unfeeling bastard". Another referred to the same guard as "a rat". An investigation into how the news got out is already under way. The belief seems to be that Mr Stagg, however undignified his position, must be free to pursue his private life unmolested — so long as he keeps within the law.

**I**rish law on homosexuality is among the most liberal in Europe. Despite a history of virulent opposition by Church and State down the years to "unnatural practices", Irish gays are now more liberated from legal restraints than their counterparts in Britain.

Last June, the Dáil and Senate passed a Bill decriminalising homosexual acts between consenting adults over the age of 17, including members of the armed forces. Dr Desmond Connell, the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, expressed his opposition to it, with a statement that homosexuality was "a disorder which affects many people as a result of being portrayed as

an acceptable lifestyle". But the Church, still reeling from the disclosure that the former Bishop of Galway, Eamonn Casey, had not one but two love-children, was no longer seen as being in a position to preach.

Like any other country, Ireland has always had its share of gays. Oscar Wilde, probably the most famous, was "outed" by none other than Sir Edward Carson, the famous Victorian advocate, who destroyed the playwright

in a celebrated libel case before becoming the patron saint of Ulster Unionism.

Before the Wilde case, a Church of Ireland Bishop of Clogher caused consternation within the Ascendancy when he was accused of buggery with a soldier. But when Sir Roger Casement, hanged by the British for his gun-running activities to Irish rebels during the First World War, was revealed to be a closet homosexual, such was his status in the republican pan-

theon that no one seemed much to mind.

Tolerance, indeed, is becoming the Irish way in these matters. Micheal MacLiammoir, the actor, best remembered for his one-man show, *The Importance of Being Oscar*, lived openly for many years in Dublin with Hilton Edwards, the theatre director and impresario. When he died, policemen with rather more of a sense of style than the officer who shopped Mr Stagg halted traffic for the

cortege and saluted the coffin as it passed.

De Valera was, of course, a magisterial puritan, for whom sex was a duty, not a pleasure, and would have been horrified by the notion of "relations" between members of the same sex. Archbishop McQuaid, the most infamous prelate in Ireland this century, would have excommunicated practitioners on the spot and demanded their imprisonment. North of the border, the same attitudes have lasted longer, and homosexuals had to fight long and hard for the same rights as their counterparts on the mainland. In the recent Commons debate on reducing the age of homosexual consent, Ian Paisley's speech was one of the most violently reactionary in the House.

**F**or the greater part, however, attitudes have changed. It is not that most Irish people today consider homosexuality, or lesbianism, a "usual" activity. They do not. The same cheap jokes are cracked about "queers" in Dublin and Cork as are made in London and Manchester. But the live-and-let-live philosophy which increasingly characterises modern Ireland means that sex, for so long shrouded in hypocrisy, is at last out in the open, with all its variation.

Emmett Stagg may even discover that, so long as he keeps his head down for a week or two and spends more time with his family, he can survive the present crisis. He was not charged with any crime, and the greatest public ire so far has been directed not at him, but at the Garda Síochána. Repressive Ireland is dead and gone; it's with de Valera in the grave.

WALTER ELLIS



Importance of being gay: Oscar Wilde (left) and Sir Roger Casement, republican hero

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## Alan Coren



■ A day of unmitigated pleasure has dawned — and all to make me feel better

You must wake and call me early, call me early, mother dear! I do not want to waste a moment of tomorrow, or today as it now is, for, though I write this on Tuesday with trembling hands and pit-patting heart, Wednesday is my special day. For Wednesday is No Smoking Day, and I am a smoker, which, of course, is why my hands tremble and my heart goes pit-a-pat, even when it is not No Smoking Eve.

Today is a wonderful day for smokers. They do not have to spring from the sack, because the family brings them Nicorette in bed. It brings them gum to chew and patches to slap on, and it gives them, terrific! No Smoking Day presents, such as sticks. These are little wooden models of cigarettes, with red-painted ends, and what the smoker does is put one in his mouth, that's about it.

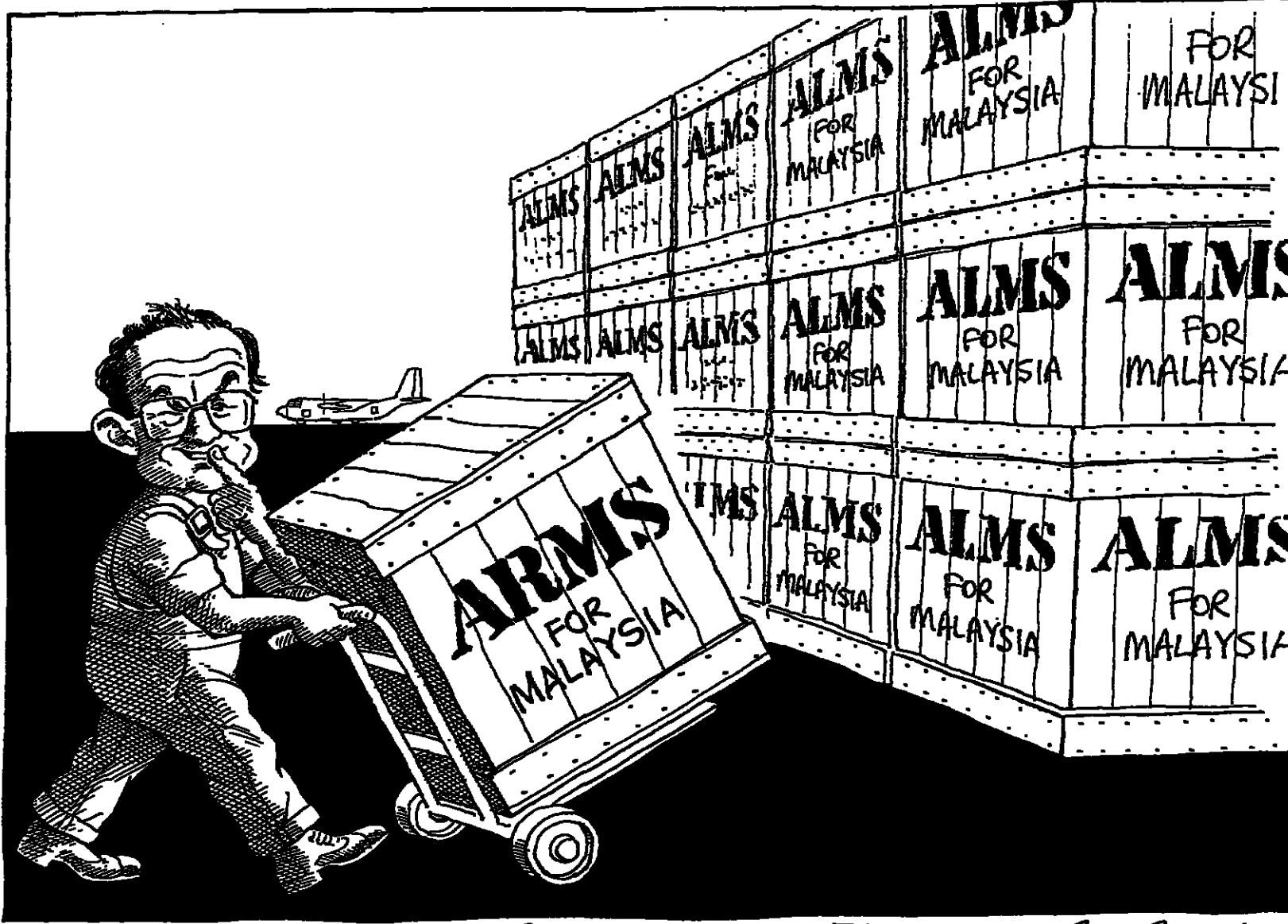
Once he has gummied his patch on and stuck his stick in, he can open his No Smoking Day cards. These are not only the most tremendous fun, they make the smoker feel really special: he knows that nobody who doesn't smoke receives cards like these, with hilarious pictures of green wizened faces, and ochre teeth, and addled eyes, and kipped lungs, and full ashtrays made from skulls. If he is really lucky, the smoker may get the one which looks like a fag packet until he opens it, when it cleverly becomes a tombstone with his name on. Sometimes, if the smoker's circle includes a truly caring sender, the tombstone also has the smoker's dates filled in, and a witty epitaph such as "Cough in Peace" (cough peace, geddit?).

The fun does not stop there. He is still sunk amid his pillows, happily sucking his wooden stick (albeit, perhaps, musing on how it would taste if he set fire to it when a member of his family enters with a portable phone and the message that there is a call for him. When he picks up the receiver to his ear, a voice says: "Hello, QUIT here, Brian speaking, how may I help you?" and, though the smoker's brain is somewhat befuddled from sucking a wooden stick on an empty stomach, he eventually realises that one of his family has dialled the No Smoking Day Helpline on 071 487 3000, which is why Brian is now telling him about some of the wonderful things he can do on this special day, such as take up knitting. When the smoker asks Brian why he should take up knitting, Brian says that occupying the hands is a major help in giving up smoking, to which the smoker replies that he already occupies his hands typing and cannot write and knock up Fair Isle bedjackets at the same time, so Brian says he will send a free Quiltack full of lots of other tips on substitution therapy, and the smoker thinks, Wow, another fabulous gift, what a truly ace day this is turning out to be!

And he has not even got out of bed yet. When he does, he finds there are no cigarettes in the house, possibly because the No Smoking Fairy has tipped in during the night and stuck her bloody nose in where it wasn't wanted, but this is only the fairy's way of getting him out of the house to meet a host of new friends. It is astonishing how No Smoking Day brings out the best in people: somehow, all inhibition leaves them when they see a smoker, they cannot wait to inform him that he is an imminent corpse, a drain on the NHS, an ozone vandal, a fire hazard and a murderer of the hapless ambient. The most solicitous may even break off from work of national importance, eg aerosoling BUY CANCER! on Silk Cut posters, to try to dash the cigarette from his lips, at the altruistic risk of thereby ending up on an NHS ward themselves.

Nor, should he happen briefly to forget the occasion, will there be any shortage of well-wishers to remind him. Emboldened by the date, they will pounce on him in shop and bistro and waiting-room and queue and many another congregational venue to enquire whether he has any idea what day it is, and I have even heard that a cab-driver may, at the sound of a sparking Zippo, be jogged from his habitual shyness to remark that he had that Melina Mercouri in the back of the cab once, what a tragedy, I suppose she couldn't read Thank You For Not Smoking signs either, it is a right curse, illiteracy.

So it's no wonder there's nothing I more look forward to than No Smoking Day. If I ever gave up, I should miss it terribly.



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YOUNGER'S EXPORT DRIVE

Alan Brooke

# A law to the IRA's liking

Today the Tories will again fill the Aye lobby to renew an Act which has failed in its purpose and curtails our liberty

Who cares about the renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act? Nobody really. The Act has not prevented terrorism, nor is it temporary. Introduced in 1974 in the wake of the Guildford and Birmingham pub bombings, it has failed. The Act was supposed to last just six months. Today it has merged into the grey edifice of Tory centralism. Parliament dutifully renews the Act each year. Today's will be its 20th renewal.

For the past ten years, Labour has voted against the Prevention of Terrorism Act. This is despite a compromise offered by the Labour leader John Smith and rejected by the Prime Minister. I am glad the compromise failed. Labour should continue to oppose the Act, and ministers should be forced publicly onto the defensive. The Act is a squalid, illiberal measure, a discredit to Britain.

As Niebuhr said, our capacity for justice may make democracy possible but "our inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary". The Act now has a life of its own. It has been amended and reinforced and renamed. "Temporary" has become "Supplemental Temporary" and even "Supplemental Temporary Continuation". It outlaws — to no purpose — various terrorist bodies that simply change their names. Its most draconian measures are those curtailing freedom of movement within the United Kingdom and limiting the rights of people being interrogated. A "suspect" can be confined to Ulster without hearing or appeal. Likewise a person against whom no charges are contemplated can be held in solitary confinement without reference to any court for seven days. While such a person can consult a lawyer, the right to do so in private is also suspended.

The best that can be said for the Act is that it appears to be in decline. Perhaps its more outrageous abuses may decline also. The ministerial order to stop Gerry Adams coming to London last October hardly met the requirement that exclusion is only used against those "traveling to this country to plan a terrorist act". A plan to hold a politically embarrassing press conference is not usually considered grounds for internal exile in a free country.

There is wide doubt even within Whitehall — and certainly in Ulster — about these exclusion orders. Only five new orders have been granted in the past two years. The Government's

independent monitor, Lord Colville, has advocated that they be dropped. Yet 81 unconvicted people are still banned from travelling from one part of Britain to another. As Home Secretary, Kenneth Clarke last year declared that all 81 had "been involved in terrorism". Who says? No evidence has been produced and no court has condemned them. This off-hand ministerial justice is practised in no other European state. Yet Tory MPs will pass it on the nod.

The detention without trial measure is even more controversial. It breaches Article 5(3) of the European Convention on Human Rights, that every arrested person "shall be brought promptly before a judge" or other judicial officer. The British Government accepts the Convention. It has therefore excused itself from Article 5(3) on the ground that it is in the grip of a "public emergency", a poor comment on Britain's claim to political stability. Normally this requires the declaration of a state of emergency. The present cabinet has not yet come to that pass. Yet such banal excuses are a gift to such as Gerry Adams in his propaganda campaign in America recently. Detention without trial blots Britain's book in every human rights forum.

Lady Thatcher has asserted that the Act has "stopped hundreds of deaths". But there are many other anti-terrorist laws that might do this, or actually have done. Mr Clarke admitted last year that detention without trial is basically about gathering intelligence. The police can shake down any Irishman they choose, either for 24 hours at a port without reason given, or for two-plus-five days on the say-so of the Home Secretary. Most detainees are never charged. Although 145 were held last year, charges were brought in just 30 cases. As the monitoring group Liberty points out, all could have been held under other acts. Those eventually convicted were

mostly minor Irish criminals, drug-pushers and social security fraudsters. On this basis, the Home Secretary might as well bring in a Prevention of Crime (Temporary Provisions) Act to meet the national crime wave, of which he talks so fondly. Every known rapist, fraudster and contract killer could be rounded up and held without trial on his orders. They could be held, Pinchot-style, in Wembley Stadium. The Home Secretary would merely tell Parliament that he is forestalling "hundreds of crimes" and derive any critic as "soft on crime". Dictatorships dance down this road with a light heart, but surely not a land where "Freedom slowly broadens down / From precedent to precedent".

The 1974 Labour Cabinet was deeply sceptical of this Act. To give such powers to the police and ministers was, Lord Jenkins agreed, "unprecedented in peacetime". The Guildford and Birmingham interrogations justified that scepticism. Lord Jenkins has since admitted he would have been "horrified to have been told at the time that the Act would still be law 20 years later". Equally sceptical have been Lord Whitehall, Lord Joseph and Enoch Powell. But they all trooped into the Aye lobby. The rule of law has little chance against the monster of Big Security.

Labour is clearly in a bind. I sense that John Smith and his home affairs spokesman, Tony Blair, would like the Act off the statute book. Mr Blair would at least like an independent review of its usefulness. Yet Labour dare not be seen as "soft on terrorism", a taunt that Tory ministers happily hurl across the Commons each year when it comes up for renewal. The Government sees no need to give an inch. Last year Mr Clarke saw the Act no longer as a necessary evil, but as an everyday aspect of modern policing, a legislative bobby's truncheon. He was

not dismayed by what Lord Whitehall once called this "inroad into the civil liberties of which we are justly proud". Indeed he seemed proud of the inroad. Every successful conviction vindicated the need for the Act. Every criticism of the Act was a vote for terrorism. If the police had a good year, it was because of the Act; if a bad year, it should be strengthened.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act should be repealed. If acts of Parliament would have died and gone to hell long ago, already the Police and Criminal Evidence Act is to be amended and toughened, taking aboard some features of the PTA. In Ulster it is supplemented by the Northern Ireland Emergency Provisions Act, a whole of an act with shoals of attendant executive orders. Lord Colville and others have called for an end to exclusion orders. The police have ample powers of arrest. If they want to hold a suspect longer than two days — which is hardly ever — then they can ask a judge. To claim that this is caving in to terrorism is ludicrous.

The IRA has played cleverly on the ministerial love of power. Each year it goads the Government into a new acknowledgment of its menace. Downing Street is defaced with barricades. Party conferences are granted a level of protection normally seen only at mafia show-trials. The police are given dangerous powers to suborn detainees. British justice is polluted with "unsafe convictions". The British Government is made a laughing-stock by its censorship of IRA voices on television. These are not the measures of a Government confident in its ability to face down terrorism. It suggests that someone has only to murmur "terrorism" for a minister to jump out of his skin.

The objective of the IRA is not to kill or bomb. Those are merely its means. The objective is to undermine faith in the judicial system, to discredit the institutions of government and to goad ministers to publicise its cause with illiberal acts. It is currently having some success. The defence against such terrorism is simply not to be terrorised. It is to uphold the rule of law against all provocation. Britain should be able to resist the IRA poison without polluting the due process of its law. And John Major should tear down the "IRA memorial gates" to Downing Street. Any self-respecting terrorist can lob a bomb over the top of them. One already has.

Simon Jenkins

## Bookseller's honour

THE BOOKER PRIZE may have eluded him last year amid a flurry of controversy, but at lunchtime today Vikram Seth will at last be honoured with his first major literary prize. The author of *A Suitable Boy* — one of the longest novels in the language — has won the W.H. Smith Literary Award, and will receive his prize of £10,000 at a ceremony in London.

Despite being lauded as a latterday Tolstoy, Seth did not even make the Booker shortlist. Lord Gowrie, the chairman of last year's judges, announced that the 1,349-page tour de force, set in the imaginary Indian city of Brahmapur, would be well served by some "editing, in the cinema sense".

Understandably the remark caused uproar in literary circles and provoked the Calcutta-born author to retaliate that Gowrie really should have known better than to make unsavoury comments to the press and on the air in order "to bad-mouth" the book. He sported: "Gowrie was being defensive; he shot his mouth off, or maybe he opened his mouth and shoved his gavel in."

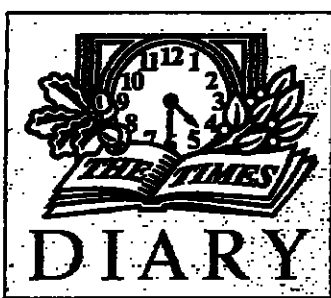
Seth, who has been living out of a suitcase for the past year while

promoting his book worldwide, hopes to attend today's lunch. According to Orion, his publisher, "he's absolutely delighted. It's the first serious literary prize he has won." And, we hope, not the last.

● Paddy Ashdown may be leading an all-female line-up in the forthcoming Eastleigh by-election. The three shortlisted Lib Dem candidates going before selectors tomorrow night include one of Ashdown's favourite women, Dr Jenny Tongue, who has repeatedly failed to take Richmond and Barnes from the Tories. "Minder" for the chosen candidate, who is favourite to win the Hampshire seat, will be the victor of Christchurch, Diane Maddox.

### Party party

WHILE parties thrown by the Conservatives tend to be rather dismal affairs these days, John Smith's new-look Labour Party is clearly out to enjoy itself, with no expense spared. The next bout of champagne socialism — the grandly titled European Gala Dinner — takes place in May. For a mere £6,000 a table, one can dine alongside an MP, MEP or "celebrity" at London's Park Lane Hotel.



Sponsored by the *Daily Mirror*, it will feature the likes of Melvyn Bragg, Maureen Lipman, Ben Elton and George Melly.

"I have been a lifelong Labour supporter, and I don't think that the message of socialism is that you have to walk around with long faces eating fish and chips," insists Melly. "I feel it's time to do something to shake up this extraordinary collection of inadequate politicians."

### Art attack

THE CALM of London's Wigmore Hall has been rudely disrupted by thieves. A painting commissioned to mark a series of piano concerts at the hall has been stolen — possibly during one of the recitals it was promoting.

The untitled work of art, a Klimt-style view of a piano, with plenty of gift, disappeared from

the artist's Green Room. Unhappily no one spotted its absence for quite some time. Painter Peter Sloper was naturally upset. . . "but at the same time flattered that someone would want to break in and steal it."

### Death Row

MACABRE discoveries at 25 Cromwell Street in Gloucester have inevitably brought queues of gawpers. So many that there is speculation that, just as Rillington Place disappeared many years ago, the beleaguered residents will want the street name erased from the map.

Rillington Place in west London, where several strangled bodies were found in 1952, was renamed Ruston Close soon after their murderer, John Christie, had been hanged at Pentonville. Later, the terrace of Edwardian houses was demolished to make way for a housing estate.

Gloucester City Council is sympathetic, but says the matter has yet to be raised in council. A name change is almost inevitable, predicts Ludovic Kennedy, whose book *Ten Rillington Place* describes the 1952 discoveries in chilling detail. "There will be a desire in time for the name to be changed, because people are always drawn like magnets to this sort of thing."

### Going shortly

BLASHERS — known to the wider world (most of which he has seen) as intrepid explorer Colonel John Blashford-Snell — was in cracking form at the launch party for his autobiography, and full of plans for the future.

At the Royal Overseas League Club, he regaled admirers with tales of exploits on the last expedition to Nepal in search of elephants with a team of less-than-youthful explorers, including the actress Rula Lenska. "They were tired and listless bank managers, accountants and solicitors," he says — although he could hardly have been referring to flame-haired Lenska, who attended the party accompanied by her husband Dennis Waterman.

There was an old ass from Nepal whose legs were exceedingly small...



But for his next trek, Blashers, who admits to being 57, is setting a strict criterion. "I am looking for people with small bottoms and short legs to take on my next expedition to Mongolia. The donkeys you have to ride there are frightfully small."

### Over Hurd

DOUGLAS HURD would have been listening to few flattering remarks about his tenure at the Foreign Office had he been eavesdropping the launch party for Noel Malcolm's book *A Short History of Bosnia* on Monday. Not only has Malcolm taken to spilling forth a torrent of vitriol against Hurd, but our Foreign Secretary appears to be the *bête noire* of some other "intellectuals". Neither the Thatchers nor the Foots were deterred by the distinctly scruffy venue for the very jolly party — the West End offices of the Alliance to Defend Bosnia-Herzegovina — or by having to climb four flights of stairs because the lift was broken.

Her Ladyship found a ready audience for her views on Bosnia, Russia and points further east. So much so that her husband could not tear her away. "I must get my woman to cook me some bacon and eggs," he explained. Under-terred, Baroness Thatcher continued to hold forth.

## Making the flesh creep

Theodore

Dalrymple on serial killers

Every doctor from time to time comes across a patient who makes his flesh creep, despite the patient's unthreatening manner and hitherto blameless life. For example, a recent patient of mine exhibited a morbid fascination with the babies bottled in formalin in the pathological museum of the local medical school. While another, a young man with no criminal conviction of any kind, who was so concerned with the welfare of animals that he had become a strict vegetarian, confessed to me that the degenerate, pornographic and violent rubbish shown in our cinemas so upsets him that he sometimes wants to enter a cinema and attack the audience with an AK-47. Then, he said, the Government might sit up and take notice.

As he was wearing a camouflage jacket and military-style boots at the time, and his personality accords well with that of several mass killers, I did not think his threat an entirely idle one, the more so as it is not nearly as difficult as it once was to procure firearms. The man with the interest in bottled babies thought he might one day bottle a few for his own collection. But in the absence of any concrete evidence of their being dangerous, I am unable to do anything about them.

The world has not yet heard from my patients, and I hope it never will. For quite apart from the unfortunate victims, who could be many, I should be pilloried for my failure to predict the unpredictable: the precise time and date of their murderous attacks on the public.

But the world has certainly heard from the killer of 25 Cromwell Road, Gloucester, whoever he is, and it is a fair guess that the first chapters of several books about him are already being scribbled frantically. They will ask questions about why no one noticed, for so many years, that there was something distinctly odd and sinister about him, why no one offered him counselling and so on. And they will of course try to explain his bizarre behaviour.

Since the child is father to the man, his childhood will be examined in as much detail as time and circumstances permit. A supposedly meaningful connection will be drawn between some childhood trauma or other and his subsequent behaviour, without mention of the fact that many thousands — perhaps millions — of people will have suffered from similar or worse childhood trauma without resorting in later life to the shovel and the concrete mixer. The man's consciousness, and his ability to choose his actions, will of course be rigorously excluded from the analysis.

As he gets older, he will be found to have suffered, if not from a psychiatric condition at least from states of mind with an impressive psychiatric label. His personality will be said to have been split; he will have suffered from dissociation, in which one part of the mind did not know what the other part thought and caused to be done. This mechanism will be said to have allowed him to live an ordinary and an extraordinary life at the same time. The beguiling notion of irresistible impulse will also be introduced, although the great majority of such irresistible impulses are in practice highly sensitive to the presence of policemen and other potential witnesses.

Yet it will be difficult to believe that a man who stealthily and steadily interred at least eight people after killing them was not suffering from an illness. He must have been ill because he behaved thus; and he behaved thus because he was ill.

The presence of peculiar sexual desires — if such the killer proves to have had, and since all the victims found so far have been women this seems quite possible — will be taken to corroborate the idea that there was something medically wrong with him. And since it is certainly true that no one knows whence his sexual or other desires derive, he cannot be blamed for having them; the heart, after all, has its reasons which reason knows nothing of. But every man must make sure the fulfilment of his desires, whatever they may be, conforms to the requirements of the law: the rapist cannot defend himself by pleading the normality of his sexual nature, nor can the pederast by pleading the abnormality of his.

If illness comes, can treatment be far behind? The problem here is that experience is limited, and the auguries are not altogether encouraging. Jeffrey Dahmer, a young Milwaukee man who was on "supervised probation" for sex offences, managed to kill, store and in part eat 15 victims, without the knowledge of his probation officer and sometimes within hours of having seen him.

Even psychiatrists sometimes get things a little wrong: on the very day on which Gary Heidnik from Philadelphia killed one of his many victims, cut her up, cooked her and stored her in his freezer, his psychiatrist wrote that "with continued psychotherapy, Mr Heidnik's prognosis is good". A satirist who wished to mock the pretensions of psychiatry could not have done better. However strenuous the attempts we make to comprehend the mind of the perpetrator of the mass murder in Gloucester, our explanation of his deeds will always fall short of full understanding. Caution is required, and I am reminded of the testimony of one of the first forensic psychiatrists, Dr Norwood East, who was asked in court whether the murder in question was a very mad one. "It was a very unusual murder," he replied, with sage ambiguity.





# THE PM'S CONSTITUTION...

Mr Major is less secure than he claims to be

The Prime Minister appears to have a peculiar new view of what passes for constitutional precedent in this country. Until his interview with Jimmy Young on Monday, most people were under the impression that they voted at general elections not for a President, as in America, but for the candidate of a party whose leader would become Prime Minister. Now, it seems, they gave John Major a personal, and unassailable, mandate in the April 1992 general election. If this is true, then the people who determine the leadership of the Conservative Party, at least while it is in government, are not Tory MPs, but the electorate at large.

Dismissing speculation about a leadership challenge, Mr Major said to Mr Young: "I was elected at the last election with the largest vote any party or party leader has ever had. I was elected to remain Prime Minister of this country at least until the next election, and beyond it if I win the next election." This is a curiously presidential interpretation of the unwritten rules governing Britain's constitution.

There are many advantages of the presidential system. But one of its drawbacks, as Americans seem to discover alarmingly frequently, is that the success or failure of an Administration depends wholly on one man. His failings can overshadow an entire four-year term and, short of impeachment, there is nothing his cabinet, party, legislature or electorate can do about it.

The British system, by contrast, offers more flexibility to the party in power, if more insecurity to the Prime Minister's tenure of Number 10. His is not so much an assured tenancy as a shorthold, liable to eviction at

very little notice. The Labour Party is relatively charitable to its leaders, once in office. Though putches against Harold Wilson were frequently the subject of gossip during his unpopular years in the late 1960s, they never materialised. Neil Kinnock was allowed to lose two elections in a row before standing down. But Mr Major would do well to look at the Conservative precedents, which are rather less rosy.

Only one of the seven postwar Tory Prime Ministers has managed to pull the party back from a mid-term nadir in the polls and win the subsequent general election. That was Margaret Thatcher, and she achieved the feat twice. But this third time the polls turned against her, her party unseated her, even though she had won three general elections in a row with huge majorities. Of her predecessors, all were pushed out after mid-term slumps or general election defeats, except for Churchill, who retired from ill-health. Macmillan used the same reason when his standing was low after the Profumo affair.

Mr Major clearly hoped that victory in the 1992 general election would scotch the idea of him riding to power on Baroness Thatcher's coat-tails. There was much talk then of winning a mandate. But the mandate was for a Government which happened to be led by him, not for a five-year, quasi-presidential term.

Some Conservative MPs claim that the electorate would not forgive another change of leader in mid-term. But even if voters did wonder about the unity, good judgment and competence in office of the Tory Party — and well they might — they could not feel constitutionally betrayed.

## ... THE PRESIDENT'S

Mr and Mrs Clinton are sinking in Whitewater

The Whitewater affair is closing in on the Clintons. The political costs are already high: the resignation of Bernard Nussbaum, the White House counsel, the appointment of a special prosecutor, the fall in the standing of Hillary Clinton, the paralysis afflicting the White House and the dark suspicions that the apparent suicide of Vincent Foster can be traced back to the same Whitewater.

The President's frustration is palpable. He cannot get his message across on any other matter. No American asked a question about Georgia at the joint press conference with Eduard Shevardnadze. Hearings begin this week on the Clinton health care programme, now urgently in need of a promotional transfusion; yet this momentous piece of legislation is being overshadowed. There is at least a whiff of Watergate. Mr Clinton has no shortage of Republican enemies; and in an age and place where political correctness is the dominant, intolerant ideology, the tangled affair is subject to the special censoriousness of his own party too.

What must be doubly vexing for the President is that no plausible charge of criminality has been made against him. The details of the failed property deals look unsavoury. But even if the cosy relationships in Little Rock are judged by the yardstick of national politics, the "scandal" still has a hole at its centre — at least on present knowledge. Around it has arisen a miasma of innuendo and partisan accusations. Frustrated Republicans have seized their opportunity to attack a President who on many other counts had been beating them. Past Democrat goings of Republican Presi-

dents can now be avenged. Many Democrats never gave up their traditional sport of attacking one another — and are delighted to rejoin the fray in earnest.

What makes the affair particularly piquant is the central role of Mrs Clinton. Not since Eleanor Roosevelt has a President's spouse wielded such influence. The charge that she was unselected hardly sticks: voters knew throughout the campaign that they were getting "two for the price of one". The President was warned of the risk of giving her a key political role: an unsackable aide is a dangerous aide. Now his wife's credibility is in question, and with it the health plan, the President's judgement and his own wondrous emotions. Little wonder he drummed his fingers on the podium in vexation.

The waves have not yet engulfed him. Full co-operation with the investigators is late but not too late. Mrs Clinton must now, humbly, retreat to the White House private rooms until her role is clarified.

The Clintons brought many Friends Of Bill, FOBs, to Washington with them from Arkansas. Washington is now littered with the bodies of COBs, Casualties of Bill, as *The Wall Street Journal* has termed them. Resignations and retirements are the order of the day. More may be necessary before the President — the child of a one party state, with all the confident attitudes and contempt for proper process which this tends to engender — is able to shake the dust of Arkansas out of the White House and regain political momentum. If the President's surviving aides keep their nerve and if Congress keeps a sense of proportion, the wilder accusations may quickly die: but these are two big "ifs".

## ... AND THE MINISTER'S

Lying to Parliament remains a grave breach of trust

William Waldegrave's claim yesterday that it is sometimes acceptable for ministers to lie to Parliament was a blunder which required rapid rectification. Giving evidence to the Treasury and Civil Service select committee, the Minister argued that the House of Commons understands and accepts this as a reality of political life. We hope that these remarks were nothing other than a foolish slip. Otherwise they represented a serious assault upon one of the most basic principles of parliamentary democracy.

The limits of frankness in public life have been a lively topic of debate since Lord Armstrong's famous observation that it was possible to be "economical with the truth" — or, in Alan Clark's Gallicised version, "economical with the actualité". Throughout the Scott enquiry, moreover, it has been clear that many ministers and officials do not regard the Government's duty to disclose its business to Parliament as an absolute one.

It is for Lord Justice Scott to decide whether it was right in that particular case to conceal the change in guidelines governing defence exports to Iraq from MPs. It remains open to question whether the Government was right to keep its contacts with the IRA secret. Yet, in a general sense, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with the distinction drawn last month by Sir Robin Butler, head of the Civil Service, between incomplete and misleading statements.

The practicalities of government will indeed require ministers occasionally to withhold information in the national interest. Only the most fanatical champions of freedom of information argue that all official decisions must be taken in public irrespective of their sensitivity. Part of the public

trust invested in ministers is the duty to publish information at the appropriate moment: they must protect the best interests of the State without telling lies.

Difficult as this task is in principle, the practice of political life makes it easier than might be supposed. Most ministers adapt to the language of Parliament in order to answer questions without jeopardising the work of their departments which must remain confidential, at least for the time being. To say that a matter is still under review, for instance, is simply to postpone the moment of accountability rather than to escape the judgment of the electorate.

The Cabinet Office guidelines for ministers require them to give the public "as full information as possible about the policies, decisions and actions of the Government and not to deceive or mislead Parliament and the public". This wording leaves considerable scope for partial disclosure and parliamentary answers that give only a selective account of government business.

What it does not in any sense permit is a barefaced lie. Mr Waldegrave yesterday invoked the example of James Callaghan misleading the Commons about an impending devaluation. But the doctrine he proposed could be seen to have far more pernicious applications.

It paid scant attention to one of the fundamental principles upon which the work of Parliament is based. Mr Waldegrave should remember that John Profumo, the disgraced war minister, was forced to resign in 1963 not because of his private life but because he lied about it to the Commons. There is a very clear difference between an evasive answer and a mendacious one — and MPs still understand it.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## Changing system for board pay

From Mr Ivor Hall

Sir, Both the Chancellor and the Prime Minister are trying to reduce the continued unrealistic, unearned and unjustified escalating demands for pay increases by board members and top executives (report, March 3). Yet the encouragement of personal greed has been an essential part of Tory philosophy since the arrival of Margaret Thatcher in 1979: a philosophy that has created the most divisive society of this century.

Ex-government ministers, many rewarded for their loyalty to the party by being "elevated" to the Upper House, are among those who have taken the greatest advantage of this bonanza. Lord Young of Grafton, for instance, who managed to increase his remuneration over a period of two years, whilst the country was in the midst of a highly damaging recession, from £400,000 to £800,000, claims he earned this increase because of his company's increase in profits (report, June 29, 1993).

A reduction of the highest income tax rate from 98 per cent in 1979 to 40 per cent in 1988 did nothing to curb these excessive demands. A higher level of tax, at say 60 per cent from £50,000 upwards, together with a tax on share options assessed at their value when taken up, might help to redress the balance.

However, those with the most power to control these demands are the major shareholders. It is time they changed the present system whereby non-executive board members decide the salaries of the full-time board members who appointed them. They should also stop the rolling three-year contracts for board members and executives are the same as those for the employee.

Yours faithfully,  
IVOR HALL,  
29 Erskine Hill, NW11,  
March 4.

## Wind power peril

From Mr I. G. Blair

Sir, Dr Peter Musgrove (letter, February 23) implies that there is no evidence that wind turbines are "a hazard to birds". Research carried out in Holland and California contradicts this view.

After a study period of seven nights and twilight periods in October 1988 at a wind park at Oosterschelde in Holland, researchers came to the following conclusion: "If all the 18 turbines had been in operation during that week, 90 birds would have collided fatally... One bird out of every 23 would be expected to collide per kilometre of wind park with six wind turbines".

At UK, adjacent to Lake Jijsemeer, the same researchers found that each of the 25 wind turbines killed an average of one bird per day. The Netherlands Society for the Protection of Birds estimates that up to 46,000 birds will be killed by Dutch wind turbines every year.

In California it has been estimated that in one area alone, the Altamont Pass, 300 raptors were killed by wind-farm-related injuries in 1989.

Yours faithfully,  
I. G. BLAIR,  
Field Farm, Nympsfield,  
Stonehouse, Gloucestershire,  
March 1.

From Mrs Juliet Hill

Sir, Perhaps Michael Harper of the British Wind Energy Association (letter, March 1) would conduct another public attitude survey in north Cornwall, now that the local people appreciate the impact that the proposals for a barrier of wind turbines from Bodmin Moor to the coast would have on the countryside and the tourist industry on which employment so heavily depends.

At a public meeting held in Camelford on February 25 to discuss the siting of a further 32 of these industrial-type generators in the beautiful, unspoiled coastal area north of Boscawen, only eight people out of some 400 did not object.

Yours faithfully,  
JULIET HILL,  
19 Summerleaze Avenue,  
Bude, Cornwall,  
March 1.

## Mercouri on song

From Mr Jonathan Dimbleby

Sir, On the night of her return to Athens from exile in 1974, Melina Mercouri (obituary, March 7) and her husband Jules Dassin gave a party to celebrate the overthrow of the Colonels. In the early hours we took to the streets of the old city to rejoice in the freedom of Greece.

From a café came the first strains of a familiar tune that had been banned by the junta. Miss Mercouri stopped. "That's my song," she said and, half-stunning her tears, gave full voice to every verse of "Never on a Sunday", not only for the benefit of a British reporter but, as her music cascaded down the hill, for all Athens as well.

You do not forget such moments: she deserved the Elgin Marbles (letter, March 8).

Yours sincerely,  
JONATHAN DIMBLEBY,  
Glebe Productions,  
1 Horbury Crescent, Wil,  
March 8.

## Labour package for fighting crime

From the Shadow Minister for Home Affairs

Sir, The bankruptcy of Michael Howard's efforts to portray himself as "tough on crime" is now clear. The only response he could make to John Smith's hard-hitting speech last Friday was to criticise Labour for "refusing to support" his Criminal Justice Bill (report, March 5).

The truth is that the vote which took place on January 11 was not for or against Michael Howard's Bill, but on Labour's reasoned amendment. It offered a package which could have cut crime, yet Conservative MPs voted it down. It would have provided: a statutory framework for crime prevention and other measures to cut crime;

a comprehensive range of treatment and punishment for young offenders, including local authority secure accommodation;

positive intervention by the police and other agencies to stop early re-offending; and bail support and enforcement programmes in all areas of the country;

drug education for young people, with ring-fenced funding;

measures to tackle the link between truancy and crime;

stricter legislation on racial harassment and violence;

a legal right for victims of crime to be consulted when the Crown Prosecution Service decides to charge or drop charges;

measures to tackle the provision of dangerous weapons, particularly by mail order;

the establishment of a proper independent

commission for the appointment of judges; and

the setting up of an independent review authority for miscarriages of justice, as recommended by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice.

Other constructive proposals have been offered by Labour as the standing committee has considered Michael Howard's Bill line by line. We have sought to strengthen some clauses, amend others, oppose those which are unworkable and to put forward alternatives which are based on the experience of experts working in the field.

Howard specifically mentions his proposals on the "right to silence". The problem here is that he ignores the advice of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, which recommended that early disclosure be required from both prosecution and defence during a system of pre-trial review. The Conservatives on the committee voted down that option when we proposed it and instead supported Howard's proposals: these will do little to catch the sophisticated criminal but they will increase the likelihood of vulnerable and innocent people being locked up.

It seems clear that Michael Howard has set a limited objective for his Bill: to appear "tough", regardless of whether it will actually cut crime. Ministers have been challenged repeatedly to tell us whether they themselves believe the measures in the Bill will cut crime. They refuse to do so.

Yours sincerely,  
ALUN MICHAEL,  
(MP for Cardiff South and Penarth),  
House of Commons,  
March 7.

## Treasure trove

From Mr David Smith

Sir, Lin Jenkins concludes her article ("Peer aims to save heritage from metal detectors", March 2) by reporting that "British Museum staff spent more than a year cleaning and studying the (Normanby) hoard, but the day after the inquest it was sold to a dealer." Why not?

The important point is that material found should be examined and recorded, and the resulting data published. What happens to the artefacts themselves after such processing is irrelevant.

Sales to dealers enable members of the public to obtain coins for their collections, and promote general interest in antiquities. Also, museums themselves would be the first to admit that they cannot, and would not wish to, retain every coin or artefact which comes into their possession — limitations of space, or coin duplication within a hoard, are just two of the reasons for their view. A number of museums have in fact sold their coin and other collections to raise money.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID G. SMITH,  
Le Bidaire,  
Aubnac les Bains,  
09200 Montjoie en Couserans,  
France,  
March 6.

From Mrs Carolyn Hatt and Mr Michael Cuddeford

Sir, We fully support the principle that there are categories of archaeological find which should, by virtue of their

historical importance, be subject to compulsory reporting and possible state acquisition. Indeed, we feel that Lord Perth's Bill does not go far enough, in that it stipulates a requirement for a percentage of precious metal to be present in order to qualify. This excludes a number of potentially significant categories.

However, we believe that the requirement to apply this to any single object perceived to be over 200 years old should be rejected on the grounds of both practicality and common property rights. The existing treasure trove practice is already largely ignored, both by finders and corners, due to the sheer numerical impossibility of processing single finds. To extend this further by expecting members of the public to evaluate 5 per cent of metallic content is frankly unrealistic, and would certainly result in further non-compliance. We would recommend that compulsion be restricted to hoards of any description.

In conclusion, we suggest that within a framework of limited but clear legal restraint, and with a sensible and selective schedule of protected sites in force, far more will be achieved by enacting complex and arbitrary laws such as that encompassed within the full draft of the proposed Bill.

Yours sincerely,  
KAROLYN HATT,  
MICHAEL CUDDEFORD,  
Searcher magazine,  
PO Box 43,  
Hindhead,  
Surrey GU26 0XG,  
March 4.

## Trade with Malaysia

From Mr A. Kadir Shariff

Sir, Mr Michael Spicer, MP (letter, February 28) accuses Malaysia of using the threat of trade sanctions "to secure extra business for its national airline (Malaysia Airlines) at the expense of British airlines", during the period when he was Minister of Aviation from 1985-87. We are, he says, "at it again".

Air services between different countries are operated within the framework of air service agreements. In the case of the UK and Malaysia, both British Airways and Malaysia Airlines are allowed to operate a specific number of flights each week.

In the case of Malaysia Airlines we currently operate — as we are entitled — seven flights weekly and we plan to add an eighth weekly flight later this year.

British Airways, on the other hand, is operating only three flights per week. They could, of course, increase the number of flights they operate to Malaysia from the UK without any hindrance from Malaysia.

That they do not wish to do so, or are

unable to do so for operational reasons, is a matter for them, but as far as Malaysia Airlines is concerned there is no reason why they should not increase the number of their services.

The traffic is there, and there is no question of Malaysia Airlines securing extra business "at the expense of British airlines", as Mr Spicer claims.

Yours faithfully,  
A. KADIR SHARIFF  
(Area Manager, UK & Ireland),  
Malaysia Airlines,  
191a Askew Road, W12,  
March 1.

From Mr J. W. L. Shillidy

Sir, If, as Mr David Tweedie asserts (letter, March 2) Malaysians now have "a standard of living... ahead of that enjoyed by many of our compatriots", why should we go on giving aid of any kind to Malaysia?

Should charity not begin at home?

Yours sincerely,  
J. W. L. SHILLIDY,  
8 Trinity Gild,  
Lavenham,  
Sudbury, Suffolk,  
March 2.

## Lawrence biographer

From Mr Graham Chainey

Sir, Your interesting obituary of your former assistant night editor, E. H. T. Robinson (February 19), passes over some of the more contentious aspects of his connection with T. E. Lawrence.

In *Images of Lawrence* (Cape, 1988) Stephen Tabachnick states: "In 1929 Robinson was convicted of forgery, and in 1937 he was again charged, this time with selling papers loaned to him by A. W. Lawrence (Lawrence's brother) in order to pay a blackmail. Robinson served three months in prison as a result."

Tabachnick also notes that Robinson's name does not appear in Lawrence's own list of those serving with him in the Arab campaign (though a T. R. Robinson does), and a check by the Ministry of Defence "has so far

proven inconclusive". Michael Yardley, in his biography of Lawrence, *Back into the Line* (1985), records that the second of three books about Lawrence that Robinson wrote was suppressed, apparently as a result of influence exerted by A. W. Lawrence, "who disputed its accuracy".

Robinson's 1946 book, *Lawrence the Rebel*, while containing valuable (if unverifiable) information about the campaign — Yardley calls it "an important landmark among books on Lawrence" — was apparently ignored as a result of pressure being brought to bear on newspapers not to review it and consequently, instead of becoming a best seller, "vanished without trace".

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM CHAINEY,  
35 The Albemarle, Marine Parade,  
Brighton, East Sussex.

## Bringing disabled out of the shadows

From Mr Richard Whittington

Sir, Professor Stephen Hawking's timely letter urging MPs to support the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill, which comes before the Commons on March 11, should be read not as a call to arms against passive discrimination but rather as a first step towards creating a long-term strategy which gives disabled people the opportunity to participate constructively in society, an opportunity currently denied by a disabling environment.

Such a strategy would allow Britain's 6.5 million disabled people to work and pay taxes rather than exist behind closed doors with a high percentage unwillingly dependent on benefit for their very survival.

It is this invisibility factor which is so destructive, for unless we are ourselves disabled or know and care about somebody who is, the hostility of the built environment is not apparent. What, after all, is the significance to an able-bodied person of a step or the absence of an accessible lavatory?

At the age of 43 I became the first disabled person I had ever met and shall always be ashamed that until this happened to me I had never given the matter any thought at all. As long as we continue to segregate children with physical disabilities in special schools and exclude them from mainstream education, society will continue to ignore the rights of disabled people. This is because in general we have been brought up to think of them as different, separate and, by implication, inferior.

It is disgraceful that supposedly public buildings can still be built without wheelchair access, a fact which underlines that change will never come out of good intentions alone. We must therefore follow the US model and legislate for change based on equal opportunities.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD WHITTINGTON,  
57 Melody Road, SW18,  
March 7.

## Assessing history

From Mr Stewart Deuchar

Sir, William Rees-Mogg's article (February 28) about school history (letters, March 5) has some fine resonances, but the whole question of which historical episodes are "in" and which are "out" of the national curriculum is totally irrelevant.

The fact is that we have an education establishment which does not like history. It sees history as something like a vaulting horse in a gym — of no interest or beauty in itself, but only valuable in so far as it may be necessary for the development of what are euphemistically called "skills".

The proposed contents ("study units") of the curriculum are window-dressing. What matters is how the subject will finally be assessed, and the establishment will ensure, as it did before, that when it comes to assessment the pupils will get no credit for historical knowledge, but only for the so-called "skills".

With few exceptions our children will continue to leave school with virtually no coherent knowledge of the history of their own country. This is quite deliberate policy on the part of the history-teaching establishment. I know: I have been attending Historical Association conferences regularly for the past six years.

Yours etc,  
STEWART DEUCHAR  
(Vice-Chairman,  
Campaign for Real Education),  
Dean Farm, Singleborough,  
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

From Mrs Paul Wrightson

Sir, How ironic that in the week that you report (February 28) the suggestion that history taught in schools should no longer include the Great Plague you also record (March 3) the return of bubonic plague.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY WRIGHTSON,  
62 Endless Street,  
Salisbury, Wiltshire,  
March 3.

## Low horse power

From Mr R. L. Reece

Sir, Further to Mr Wallington's letter (March 7) regarding locomotive nameplates: over the weekend, engineering work on the Fenchurch Street line resulted in trains being diverted via the Tilbury loop — a journey through an industrial wasteland of epic proportions, with Tilbury docks, sidings, and a rear view of Ford's Dagenham car plant for good measure.

At a particularly depressing point on this journey, imagine the incongruity of seeing a filthy diesel locomotive bearing the name *Desert Orchid* — as far as one could make out.

Grey it was: beautiful it most definitely was not.

Yours faithfully,  
R. L. REECE,  
16 Throley Close,  
Pitsea, Essex,  
March 7.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.







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The latest statement  
od does little to clear  
catch here since current forecasts are below the  
ceilings allowed for this country. New  
Zealand dairy supplies will be decreased by  
the present drought in the North Island.



# Who wants to become a freeholder?

Rachel Kelly spotlights the pitfalls of the new enfranchisement legislation for leaseholders

The news that not a single leaseholder has yet been able to take advantage of legislation to buy his or her freehold has produced a stream of enquiries to *The Times*.

Readers have been anxious to identify the problems which may lie ahead if they embark on enfranchisement. With the help of the Leasehold Advisory Service, a new body set up to help consumers, and the Leasehold Enfranchisement Association, we have put together a guide to help would-be leaseholders to identify the pitfalls.

The problems largely arise from loss of confidence in the legislation following the hostile changes imposed by the House of Lords, says Joan South from the Leasehold Enfranchisement Association.

"The result of these hostile House of Lords amendments has been that the legislation has taken on a very negative aspect. The sense of a camel having to pass through the needle's eye is intimidating," says Ms South.

"Many leaseholders hold the deep belief that they have been sold a pup, and that they should wait for the next Government to produce the proper article."

Leaseholders are going forward insufficiently supported and creating a precedent that will make it worse for everyone else (since history has demonstrated that this is exactly what did happen after both previous sets of enfranchisement legislation).

A number of those suffering the most serious management abuses have their progress further complicated by the fact that they are already either in litigation or in complex practical disputes with their landlords.

But Peter Haler from the Leasehold Advisory Service is optimistic that leaseholders can overcome the problems with help. While he is paid to help, Ms South is a voluntary worker.

"To enfranchise takes at least four months, so it is hardly surprising that no one has yet managed it," Mr Haler says. "There are problems, but this does not mean that the Act is unworkable. We have now got the first cases who are on the way to enfranchisement. They are starting to make the initial applications to freeholders. Obviously life is going to be much easier once test cases are in place to clear some of the difficulties."

This guide helps to identify problems experienced by tenants of flats, since this is the main area of confusion.



Peter Haler, of the Leasehold Advisory Service: "To enfranchise takes at least four months. Obviously life is going to be easier once some test cases are in place."

## THE COST

Leaseholders are concerned about the calculation of the cost of the lease extension or the purchase of the freehold.

The cost in essence is made up of the "marriage value" — the extra value that a property has when its leasehold and freehold elements are joined. Would-be leaseholders are confused about the mar-

riage value. This can be resolved partly through advice on what exactly the marriage value is supposed to represent ("the landlord sharing your profit") — but there are as yet no precedents, no rulings by Leasehold Valuation Tribunals, which decide disagreements between leaseholders and freeholders, and no common formula agreed between professionals.

Some leaseholders fear that the landlords will have the Leasehold

Valuation Tribunals sewn up. Many of those sitting on the tribunals will probably have worked at some time for larger landlords in their capacity as chartered surveyors. How fair will they be?

There is an obligation to employ professionals (qualified valuers) to value the different parts of the property — but what will they charge? Is anyone yet experienced

in the new requirements? Will they give an estimate of costs before they start?

Is it safe to increase your mortgage in a time of decline?

Under the Act, the leaseholder is obliged to pay the freeholder's costs. What if the freeholder uses expensive solicitors? Although the Act prescribes "reasonable" costs, worries remain that entering into

the procedure commits tenants to signing virtually a blank cheque on freeholders' legal and surveyors' fees.

## ELIGIBILITY

Various qualifications need to be met, both by the leaseholders themselves and by their property. There is a complicated formula for ascertaining "low rent".

For old leases, leaseholders need to check back on original ground rent levels or rateable values to ensure that the lease qualifies (easier for leases drawn up post 1960).

It is even more complicated for tenants of houses where "low-rent" assessment also has to determine whether the house is covered by the procedures of the new Act or the Leasehold Reform Act 1967. The legislation remains unnecessarily complex.

There is also unnecessary complexity in the formulae for participation by tenants in collective enfranchisement — the rules stipulate that two-thirds of the flats need to be on long leases, half of the tenants need to satisfy residence conditions, and two-thirds of the tenants need to agree to participate. This is hard to work out — and works against small blocks.

## PROCEDURES

Formal notice to freeholders demands complex information from tenants and cannot be done without professional help, and the production of plans, valuations and title details.

Leaseholders fear that chartered surveyors (whom under the Act leaseholders have to accept as arbiters of their fate as they sit on Leasehold Valuation Tribunals) will not have changed their spots since their previous incarnation as managing agents.

## GETTING TOGETHER

There are practical difficulties in organising collective action. This is no particular defect in the Act and follows previous requirements of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1987, but it is hard for individuals to have to explain these complex procedures to others.

There are also problems of committing participants due to uncertainties over cost.

A majority can proceed over the heads of a non-participating minority, which can produce future management friction. There is also the question of how to raise costs to cover non-participants: again, not a defect of the legislation, just another hurdle.

Leasehold Advisory Service, 01-493 3116; Leasehold Enfranchisement Association, 01-493 0866.

## Borrowing sorrow

The curious story of one woman's repossessed home

Repossessions used to make headlines. Now they're declining, and rarely make the news. About 63,500 repossessions are expected for 1993, down from more than 15 per cent from the peak of 75,500 in 1991. The number of homes repossessed by Abbey National, for example, in the first half of this year dropped by 33 per cent to 2,777.

If, however, you are one of the unfortunate few still being ejected from their homes, the figures don't seem so rosy. Sara Moss, a 24-year-old self-employed hairdresser, is among them, and is now in the unhappy position of still owing her lender £26,000.

In 1989 she bought a two-bedroom cottage in the new holiday village at Walcott, Norfolk. The cottage is in a terrace of little houses on the cliff top, about 200 yards from the edge. One of the provisos at the time was that they were sold only to first-time buyers.

"I bought the property with my then boyfriend for £39,500," Ms Moss explains. "We took a 100 per cent mortgage, not having the money for a deposit, and my parents offered to guarantee the loan. I had recently become self-employed and did not have the necessary three years of accounts to secure the loan myself."

Soon afterwards Ms Moss split up with her boyfriend and he disappeared. He defaulted on his half of the mortgage payments, and Ms Moss was asked to pay about £2,000 in arrears. "I did not have the money to pay the arrears. I did offer to take over the whole mortgage, but I was not earning enough."

Last year, the Halifax Building Society repossessed the property. Up to the time she received a letter saying they were taking action, Ms Moss had met all her payments. The building society sold the property for only £8,000 at auction and informed her by letter that she now owed them £26,000. The Halifax's indemnity policy paid off only about £10,000 of the loan, which had been increased anyway because of the arrears.



Up to the time she received notice of repossession, Sara Moss had met all her payments

If a 90 per cent or higher mortgage has been taken out and the repossessed property is sold for less than the sum borrowed, lenders are protected by mortgage indemnity insurance that covers some, if not all, of the shortfall. They, or the insurance company, can then pursue the borrowers for the rest.

A spokesman from the Association of British Insurers says: "Although legally it can go after the borrower for the money, in practice the insurer will look at its chances of recovering its loss and will only pursue those who have assets in one form or another. On the whole, if a person could not pay his mortgage, it is unlikely that he or she would be able to repay the debt."

What is curious about Ms Moss's case is that although the house sold at auction for such a low sum to a Channel Islands registered company, Bancroft & Lyle, it was sold on for a whopping £28,000. They are now letting it for £300 a month. A local estate agent, Tops in Norwich, has several other houses in the holiday village on its books, selling from £28,750.

However, the Halifax insists

that the reason it sold for so little was because "the property is one of a number of converted former holiday homes which were constructed mainly of timber but lined with a brick skin", a spokesman said. "It has been very poorly constructed and it has come to light that contaminated sand had been used to line the outside of the property."

The society tried to sell the house via local estate agents, who received an offer of £9,000, which was withdrawn once the purchaser knew of the problems relating to the construction.

The house is also in an area of coastal erosion and was not easily accessible. Also many fixtures and fittings had been removed before repossession. We got two independent valuations, the reserve price at auction was £7,000, and it was sold for £8,000.

"Our policy has always been to comply with the Building Societies Acts and obtain the best possible price for any repossessed property."

If the Halifax feels it cannot recover the money from Ms Moss, it can of course go to her parents, Maureen and David Moss. Although they were aware they had guaranteed the whole loan, like so many

people they just didn't think that things would ever go wrong.

"I wasn't very keen on the idea of guaranteeing the whole loan," says Mrs Moss. "I just wanted to do Sara's part. I realise now that they can come to us but at the time I just never thought things would go this way."

"We don't have the money to pay off the loan. The way I look at it, Sara is able to pay herself, whether it is 1p or £1 a week, and I wouldn't be very pleased if they came to us."

Both the Council of Mortgage Lenders and the Halifax Building Society say they only pursue outstanding money if they think they have a good chance of recovering it.

A spokesman from the Halifax says: "At the moment we have just been trying to make contact. It would be helpful if we could discuss the situation with them all to see how much could be paid. And, of course, we would like to contact the other borrower as he has never paid anything at all."

It seems that the Halifax and other lenders have caught a cold on these properties, but it is the borrowers who are being taken to task. One wonders why the Halifax lent so much money to a first-time buyer with insufficient income in the first place. A spokesman says that at the time the homes were just being developed, they seemed to be popular and the market was rising.

MARY WILSON

## PROPERTY

### RENTALS

#### FREE LIST

**BRISTOL** 1st floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2nd floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3rd floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 5th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 6th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 7th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 8th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 9th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 10th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 11th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 12th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 13th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 14th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 15th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 16th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 17th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 18th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 19th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 20th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 21st floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 22nd floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 23rd floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 24th floor flat, 2 bedrooms, 2 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# Fly on the wall at the Moral Maze

Roy Greenslade joins the Radio 4 team as they limber up intellectually for the nation's favourite exchange of deep thought and high-quality insults

It is the night before the nation's four favourite moralists go on air. The crowded Italian restaurant near Broadcasting House is noisy, so the other diners cannot hear the chatter at our table.

They don't know what they are missing. For the combatants of Radio 4's *The Moral Maze* are in fine voice, limbering up for the first programme of a new series.

The conversation never falters. It's like verbal table-tennis with seven bats as the moral quartet light-heartedly trade innuendoes and insults with each other, presenter Michael Buerk, producer David Coomes and researcher Janet McLary.

Edward Pearce, *Guardian* columnist, author and purveyor of curious epigrams, arrives late. "Train tricky at Wendover," he explains in his familiar whisper, before blaming British Rail: "Accountants on horseback are now ruling."

Pearce is considered the left-wing voice while Professor Roger Scruton is his political opposite. Studiedly scruffy in an old sweater with giant holes, Scruton laments: "It's a social embarrassment having right-wing views. I've tried to get rid of them but I can't. I don't want to be right-wing but I just am."

Everyone enjoys the philosopher's dilemma before we move on to a more serious issue: the wine. Scruton, an oenophile, objects to Buerk's choice of frascato. "It's made of figs," he says sniffily. Pearce mumbles, apparently to himself, about "a bunch of sharp-elbowed agnostics" as Coomes reminds everyone there is a bit of business to sort out.

They have known about tomorrow's subject for a day or so. It stems from the Commons debate over the age of consent for homosexuals. But their concerns and questions will be broader.

Is there a moral equivalence

between heterosexuality and homosexuality? Are all forms of personal behaviour of the same moral worth? Should criminal law interfere with private morality? On what basis should we make rules that regulate personal behaviour?

"Anyone who has a categorical opinion on this one is either a fool or a charlatan," says Rabbi Hugo Gryn, of the East European gravel voice and the homespun parable. He is gently chided for preparing his script.

Then Coomes points out that they still have to decide between two "witnesses". Will it be Matthew Parris, the award-winning *Times* columnist, or Dr David Starkey, the historian who sat in Scruton's seat in the last series?

Buerk favours Starkey. Pearce and Janet Daley (also a *Times* columnist) prefer Parris. They argue that choosing Starkey would look incestuous.

Mention of incest reminds the rabbit of one of his stories. "You know what men say in the Ozark mountains. 'If she ain't good enough for her daddy, she ain't good enough for me.'"

Buerk is not diverted. He says having Parris rather than Starkey would mean "we are veering dangerously towards a rational argument instead of a holy row".

**'We are veering dangerously towards a rational argument instead of a holy row'**

knowing it will make his role as referee a little easier.

By tradition these evenings are supposed to be devoted to discussing the topic of the week. Out of good sense they long ago eschewed the absurdity of rehearsing spontaneity. Instead they sharpen their wits by probing each other's foibles and prejudices in an intellectual equivalent of athletes doing callisthenics before a race.

The next morning, the team meets for coffee and toast at 8am. While McLary spends most of the time on the phone, worrying over the whereabouts of the witnesses,



Michael Buerk, right, starts the discussion rolling with the *Moral Maze* panel: (from left) Edward Pearce, Janet Daley, Roger Scruton and Rabbi Hugo Gryn

Coomes calls the four to some kind of order. They must agree who will open the questioning of each witness, confrontations which are the key to the programme's success.

Stimulating gladiatorial contests are the reason *The Moral Maze* has become the most popular programme in its slot, with more than a million listeners. It has gradually achieved cult status since it was created in 1990 by Stephen Oliver, then chief producer of the BBC's religious programmes, and now Rector of Leeds.

He was concerned that nobody was addressing the moral questions emanating within a society which apparently preferred to see life in terms of economic solutions. "We were balancing books but not asking whether it was right or wrong," he says.

His next task was to invent a programme which explored ethical questions without giving definitive answers. Eventually he chose a parliamentary select committee as his model, "because it allowed

everyone to challenge a witness while maintaining the intimacy of radio".

His formula works brilliantly as long as Buerk can orchestrate his disputatious team. With all the witnesses in place, the live debate in the basement studio begins at 9.05am. I sit with Coomes in the control room.

The panel's opening statements, Coomes tells Buerk through his earphones, bode well. And we don't have to wait long for one of the high-quality insults that make Thursday morning listening so compelling.

The first witness, Parris, suggests that promiscuity among gay men has been caused by social pressures not unlike those which led to heterosexual promiscuity in the West Indies. Scruton refers to this as "unargued speculation" and "a piece of amateur sociology". Buerk smiles, the producer gasps.

This sets the benchmark and Pearce doesn't disappoint. He is clearly upset by the view of the next

**'Aren't you rather confusing morality with hygiene, Mrs Riches?'**

witness, Valerie Riches from the Family Education Trust, whose argument against "unnatural sexual acts" is based on her worry about the spread of Aids. Pearce asks witheringly: "Aren't you rather confusing morality with hygiene, Mrs Riches?"

Coomes is delighted and tells the smiling Buerk: "One of his best for a long time." This is not a show for faint hearts. I now understand what Coomes had meant when he told me it "allows the unsayable to be said".

But Mrs Riches stands up well to

hostile questioning from both Pearce and Rabbi Gryn, as does Wendy Thomas, manager of the London Brook Advisory Centre. Her interrogation begins with a lengthy Scruton statement which prompts Buerk to interrupt: "Is this a question or a rambling musing?"

More apposite is Daley's articulate and forceful question about whether birth control advisers can stray into encouraging children to break the law by indulging in under-age sex.

By this time the panel is getting out of control. "Enough of that, Michael," commands Coomes, and the listener would never know from Buerk's polished intervention that he looks rather like a race-course bookie, making frantic hand signals to the panel to shut them up. On one celebrated occasion he even found his hand squeezing Rabbi Gryn's neck to silence him.

Significantly, there are no fireworks with the final witness, David Blunkett, MP, who impresses all four with his desire to see society

"restoring innocence and magic" to sexual relationships. Here was a Labour man truly wanting to go back to basics.

As I listened to Blunkett and noted the panel's reaction, it struck me why this show is so special. It is not a contrived knockabout for the chattering classes, but a thing of real value, a tribute to all involved. It manages to be both serious and entertaining, combining intelligence and humour to provoke thought and laughter. Amid the squabbling and squealing of the morality squad there are genuine goblets of wit and wisdom.

At the end, when all four sum up their views, they reach no firm conclusions. Thankfully, the audience can recognise that this doesn't matter at all. The conversation is an end in itself.

So, I ask them as they prepare to depart for their day jobs, was it a good one? Inevitably it is Pearce who provides a pithy answer: "Low on tolerance," he says, "and high on vivacity."

David Glencross, the chief executive of the Independent Television Commission, marks the ITV channels' performance

Structural change has dominated the television industry for the best part of five years. Throughout this viewers have been remarkably faithful to British television. We watch more television here than anywhere else in Europe. Even the trauma of 1991 licence awards has denied the ITV audience by less than 1 per cent, comparing 1993 with 1992. Channel 4 has powered ahead, and not simply because of *The Big Breakfast*. In terms of actual audience size it has filled the space left by ITN.

The ITC is now in the middle of its first annual assessment of its terrestrial licensees. The point of the exercise is to examine how the programme performance of each licensee measures up to the requirements set out in the individual licences. Most of these requirements are measurable, but the most interesting and most difficult part of the exercise is to judge first how good the service is for individual regions, and across the network as a whole for ITV and Channel 4, and for Teletext. That process is currently taking a great deal of our time, but the Commission will soon come to its conclusions. Those conclusions will be published in the summer, but some general programme issues can be identified.

One anxiety expressed by some commentators in the past year is that factual programming, news included, is on a downward path towards the triumph of infotainment over both information and entertainment. John Chancellor of NBC has written of "pelvic

**Beware the insidious spread of TV infotainment**

news". Or, as another American executive put it: "If it bleeds, it leads." Neil Postman, the American academic admittedly not renowned for his love or respect for television, has made a more fundamental attack. He says: "Television is at its most trivial and therefore most dangerous when its aspirations are high." He goes so far as to say that television causes most forms of discussion to become "strivelled and absurd", and has made the Americans "the best entertained and quite likely the least well informed people in the Western world".

It couldn't possibly be like that in Britain, could it? I am not so sure. Factual programmes still have a considerable presence in peak time across all four channels, but the mix has changed. There are many more programmes reconstructing crime, vicarious exposure of disasters or near disasters, and exploitations of the sex lives of the famous and not so famous.

Interestingly, Channel 4, the

statutory showcase of innovation, is the principal standard-bearer of peak-time documentary work in the old tradition with *Dispatches* and *Cutting Edge*. That said, ITV's Network Centre, now that it has come through the extremely difficult period simply of getting itself up and running, is coming up with first-rate *Network First* documentaries. The last month has seen programmes on black American fighter pilots, children of the Holocaust, and John Pilger on East Timor. That previous Friday saw fashion designer Calvin Klein in Selfridges, London, publicising his new "Escape for men".

This is a world of hype. "With its effortless combination of the primeval and the progressive Roma Uomo evokes in Laura Biagiotti's words, the eternal power of man," gushes its marketing blurb. "This power has manifested itself throughout history through extraordinary success both in the private and professional sphere. Its characteristics: willpower, perseverance, fantasy, empathy, creativity, vitality — and last but not least: infectious enthusiasm. Characteristics made almost tangible by Laura Biagiotti's new fragrance."

"Escape for men reflects the need every man has to make his life an adventure," declares Calvin Klein. "It is a spirited original" which helps you "leave the world behind". What makes these launches different is the companies behind them. These fragrances don't come from the fashion houses of Paris cashing in on the fact that while most of us can only aspire to buy that designer suit we can afford the fragrance. They come from the soap powder, nappy and margarine giants Procter & Gamble and Unilever. A third such giant, Nestlé, is waiting in the wings — a 20-year agreement freezing its stake in cosmetic giant L'Oréal at 49 per cent ends this month.

Such companies are finding the going tough in most of their traditional markets. Growth is slow and competition cut-throat. But selling fashion and fantasy is really getting their marketing adrenalin flowing. During the Eighties well-heeled males fell for designer labels. Next stage, the marketers hope, is high-class fragrance. Says Unilever: "Male fragrances provide us with strong and consistent growth at attractive margins."

Once, amellies were sold to men on a resolutely macho and functional platform as "aftershave" — and were mostly purchased by women anyway. Now, marketers are just selling the smell — direct to

## Hot stuff, Superman, but are you fragrant?

Soap giants hope to clean up in the groom boom by selling to the real man — but male scents can be a high-risk product



The Roma Uomo fragrance (top) echoes "the eternal power of man"; Calvin Klein's Escape helps you "leave the world behind"

men. According to market researchers Nielsen, the total UK market for male fragrances reached £207 million last year, compared with £368m for women. Two-thirds of it was accounted for by "fine" fragrances.

But will men be attracted by pictures of Rome's Colosseum and evocations of the "eternal power of man"? It's not all hype, insists Lynne Bonson, international vice-president of Unilever subsidiary

Calvin Klein Cosmetics. The advertising acts as a social barometer. Calvin Klein's Obsession reflected the hedonism of the early Eighties; Eternity mirrored the late Eighties yearning for more meaningful relationships. Now, Escape reflects the pressures of the Nineties. "We really thought that with the rise of computers and the like we would have more leisure and life would get easier. But it hasn't. We're all working just as hard," she says.

The marketing hype is merely targeted at whatever "mindspace" consumers are currently occupying. Harriwig Langer, marketing director at P&G subsidiary, EuroCos, says: "In other categories you buy the function. Here you buy the idea. The advertising creates an idea that rings a bell in the heart. First, consumers buy that type of feeling or aura. Then they smell the fragrance and buy the scent."

Some critics, however, believe these multinational consumer interlopers are not cut out for this business. As marketing giants, they know all about high-volume production of technically advanced, low-margin goods, long-term brand building and mass distribution. But, the critics charge, they don't understand fragrances — where image comes before demonstrable product benefit, high risks offset high margins, product life cycles are short, and distribution is extremely selective.

One example: P&G has lost millions trying to launch its Venezia fragrance in the US, market watchers estimate. "It now costs about \$40-\$50 million (£27-£33 million) to launch a fragrance, and you have relatively little to show for it unless it becomes a classic," says Gabe Levy, an analyst with US securities firm Oppenheimer & Company. Unilever's Calvin Klein Cosmetics, he says, has "lost its momentum" in the US. And P&G? "They shouldn't be in fragrances. They are not accustomed to selling fashion products."

To cope with such culture clashes, the multinationals have created separate stand-alone units to lead their charge on the market. And, in a world where being Paris-based is still important, the links between leviathan parents and their designer offspring are being kept well in the background. "P&G is mindful that it needs to combine its processes for identifying good ideas with the latitude to be creative and artistic," says Maryann Brone, chief executive of the Chelsea Partnership, EuroCos's ad agency. But male fragrances may just be the beginning. The multinationals are on stronger ground when intensive research and development and do-good benefits kick in. The Australian cricket team — "real" men to a man — have already popularised the idea of sunblock face creams for men. It seems there is a lot more money to be made out of male vanity yet.

ALAN MITCHELL



First-rate: John Pilger in East Timor for Network First

INTERNATIONAL SALES DIRECTOR

Consultancy and Software Services

Car + Home

Director of Marketing

Director of Marketing

Director of Marketing

Director of Marketing

Director of Marketing

Director of Marketing

Director of Marketing

Director of Marketing







## NEWS

## Row over minister's view of truth

William Waldegrave was desperately trying to extricate the Government from a fresh row over its integrity after declaring that ministers were sometimes entitled to lie to the House of Commons.

The minister for open government stunned a committee of MPs yesterday afternoon when he said that ministers could exceptionally "say something that is untrue to the House of Commons", adding: "Much of government activity is much more like playing poker than playing chess". Pages 1, 17

## Eighth body found at Gloucester

Remains of an eighth body were unearthed by police at Frederick West's terrace home in Gloucester yesterday, as a radar scanning device indicated the presence of more bodies. Pages 1, 3 and 16

## Raft deaths

A police officer and a teenage girl died when an inflatable raft in which they were sailing capsized on the River Ordy in Strathclyde. Seven others were pulled ashore. Page 1

## Bosnia troop moves

A British infantry battalion is expected to leave for Bosnia this weekend as reinforcements for the Coldstream Guards. The Cabinet will make its decision tomorrow. Page 1

## Rolls-Royce 'mini'

Rolls-Royce delighted the Geneva Motor Show yesterday by unveiling a 170mph 'mini Bentley' which could transform the company's image as a manufacturer of huge petrol consuming cars. Page 1

## Improved benefits

About 285,000 working women stand to gain from improved maternity benefits which have been forced on the Government by the European Union. Page 2

## Revenge killing

A woman of 18 has been convicted of organising the killing of the stepfather who had sexually abused her as a child. Page 3

## Sunbed dangers

People are continuing to reject advice about the risk of sunbed tanning despite warnings that the practice can be as dangerous as natural sunlight. Page 7

## Villagers unite to save their shop

Villagers in Talaton, Devon, reacted quickly when their shop closed. Within hours, a rescue committee had been formed and soon £7,000 had been collected. They then turned to the Village Retail Services Association for advice and today the till is ringing again and the store has become a focal point for a caring community. Page 8

## Navy affair admitted

A Royal Navy officer who arrested Wren Sylvia Panter after she jumped ship with her crewmate lover and £11,000 has admitted having had an affair with her. Page 6

## 'Burn women priests'

An Anglican vicar called for women priests to be burnt at the stake as witches. Page 4

## EU hopefuls

Leading governments in eastern Europe are pressing Brussels to allow them to join the EU in a phased sequence. Page 12

## Hebron 'faults'

Israel's senior West Bank commander has testified that the Hebron mosque massacre was able to take place due to "faults" in the deployment of troops at the site. Page 13

## Peking's risk

China has come close to endangering its special trade status with the US by detaining dissidents days before the visit of the US Secretary of State. Page 10

## Right-wing split

The white South African right is facing a split after one group decided to stand in the election. Page 13

## Improved forecasting

Scientists say it will soon be possible to give accurate weather forecasts up to 12 months in advance. Page 7



Helen Mirren, star of TV's *Prime Suspect*, helping police with their navigation near Tower Bridge yesterday, in a campaign for the charity Children with Leukaemia. Later this year officers will tackle a 945-mile fundraising row off America's West Coast

## Economy: Manufacturing output

made significant gains in January, bouncing back after the fall in production recorded for December and allaying fears that the recovery was losing steam. Page 25

## Employment: President Bill Clinton

is to urge advanced industrial nations to change their monetary and fiscal policies to reduce unemployment. Page 25

## Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index

fell 41.5 points to close at 3264.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 81.2 to 81.0 after a slip from \$1.4902 to \$1.4878 and from DM2.5609 to DM2.5519. Page 28

## Football: England take on Denmark

at Wembley tonight with Terry Venables, the new coach, calling for imagination, movement and adaptability from his chosen team. Page 48

## Cricket: South Africa beat Australia

by 193 runs in the first Test match in Johannesburg and have gone one up in the three-match series. Page 43

## Rugby league: Poor tackling from Oxford

allowed Cambridge to pull back from 22-12 down with ten minutes to go to draw the University match for the first time in 14 years. Page 42

## Tanning dilemma: If cigarette taxation

falls most heavily on the poor, it could mean that children are kept short of necessities. How can this be justified? Page 14

## Linking up: "America's businesswomen

are swarming to learn golf in order to club their way through the glass ceiling." Kate Muir despairs. Page 15

## Moral quarter: "On one celebrated occasion,

Michael Buerk found his hand squeezing Rabbi Gryn's neck to silence him." Roy Greenfield on *The Moral Maze*. Page 22

## Transatlantic Eyr: Richard Eyr,

the National Theatre's director, explains the passion for American drama that has infused so much of his programming on the South Bank. Page 35

## Shuffle across the world: An Australian

song-and-dance show called *Hot Shoe Shuffle*, which started in community halls in Sydney's suburbs, opens in the West End of London later this month. Page 37

## Spanish steps: Flamenco came to

Sadler's Wells on Monday as the Cristina Hoyos company began its London season, part of the Spanish Arts Festival. Page 38

## THE TIMES TOMORROW

## Rise and fall of tower blocks

Peter Mandler examines the history of the tower block — a solution to homelessness that soon became a problem — and asks: were we all to blame?

## From Ritz to rural retreat

Is a change as good as a holiday? Robin Young meets the former general manager of the Ritz, now running a bed-and-breakfast in rural France

## Prepare for a classic weepie

Hankies scarcely dry from *Shadowlands* are needed again for this week's big film, *The Joy Luck Club*, which *Newsweek* called "a four-hankie classic"



Emmet Stagg, an Irish Government minister reproached by police for talking to a gay man in a park used by male prostitutes. Page 8

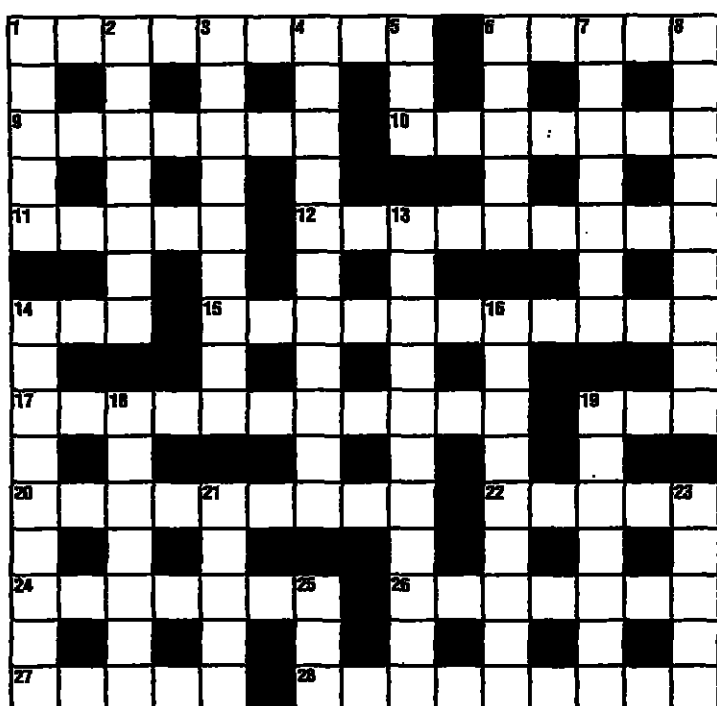


Vivienne Westwood, the designer whose latest controversial collection has elicited a spirited defence from the fashion world. Page 6



Sir Nicholas Lyell said that he had acted with integrity in advising ministers not to disclose documents in the Matrix Churchill trial. Page 9

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,485



- ACROSS**
- Lily a stupid animal knocked over (9).
  - Owned up, admitting long abuse (5).
  - Girl follows beer with a kind of wine (7).
  - ...before mother accepts one as a reward (7).
  - By the sound of it, adjusts one's clothing (5).
  - Garment pulling stomach in (9).
  - Livest pictures (3).
  - Popular vehicle needs wax paste put into jug (11).
  - Material for a mixed drink (5,6).
  - Snuff bird from the wrong end (3).
  - Echinoid cabin-boy? (3-6).
  - A game put back between two sides of the country (5).
  - United, the Muses look foolish (7).
- DOWN**
- Let in maiden through mine entrance (5).
  - First class officer confines other ranks in disorder (7).
  - Measure court's credit (9).
  - Accessory to murder, caught red-handed (4,7).
  - A bribe for Sunday work (3).
  - Part of ship in which master navigates (5).
  - Phoenix found here — a region endlessly featured in song (7).
  - Complacent over one imprisoned without protection (9).
  - 18 ants swarming in holiday accommodation (7,4).
  - Shaken as cub made a surprise attack (9).
  - Record number of soldiers included in host (9).
  - Greedy shown by girl over food (7).
  - Could become worried using more tautology (7).
  - Fish about during this season (5).
  - Ruled by leaders in Lisbon, Iberian nationalists espouse devolution (5).
  - The letters that spell 'river' (3).

## Solution to Puzzle No 19,484

ARACHNID DEMISE  
S R E N E A P  
HERMIT CRAB PART  
A G I A D A  
MANCHESTER CITY  
E G T O M N E  
DRESSER BEGGARY  
R X N M  
BASTION STIPEND  
C I N U T R E  
REPRESENTATIVE  
G S I G  
ARISE ANTICIPATE  
A E S C N S  
STARVE NEWSGAST

Times Two Crossword, page 48

## TIMES WEATHERCAST

For the latest weather by region forecast, 24 hours in advance, call 0800 500 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
Kent/Surrey/Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wiltshire/Dorset/Dorset	704
Wiltshire/Dorset/Dorset	705
Wiltshire/Dorset/Dorset	706
Wiltshire/Dorset/Dorset	707
Wiltshire/Dorset/Dorset	708
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Wiltshire/Dorset/Dorset	724
Wiltshire/Dorset/Dorset	725
Wiltshire/Dorset/Dorset	726
Wiltshire/Dorset/Dorset	727
Wiltshire/Dorset/Dorset	728
Wiltshire/Dorset/Dorset	729
Wiltshire/Dorset/Dorset	730

## AA ROADWORK

For the latest AA traffic and road-work information, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Marton, Norfolk, 18C (64F); lowest day temp: Salford, 10C (50F); highest night temp: Cardiff Airport, 0.38C; highest sunrise: Avonmouth, 7.59h.

## TOOTHACHE IN TAHITI

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## FORECAST

**General situation:** Wales and central and northern England will probably have some rain during the morning but should turn brighter and drier later on. The rest of England will stay rather dull with patchy rain likely later in the day. The temperature will still be fairly mild. Northern Ireland and Scotland will have a blustery, showery day with some heavy ones in the North West. Snow is likely on the Scottish hills. However, there should be some sunnier, too, especially in sheltered eastern parts. It will feel quite fresh in the wind.

**London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England:** mostly cloudy, rain or drizzle at times. Wind southwest, moderate. Max 11C (52F).

**E England, W Midlands, S**

## Wales, N Wales, Central N

**Wales, N Wales, Central N** England: rain, then brighter and drier. Wind west to southwest, moderate. Max 10C (50F).

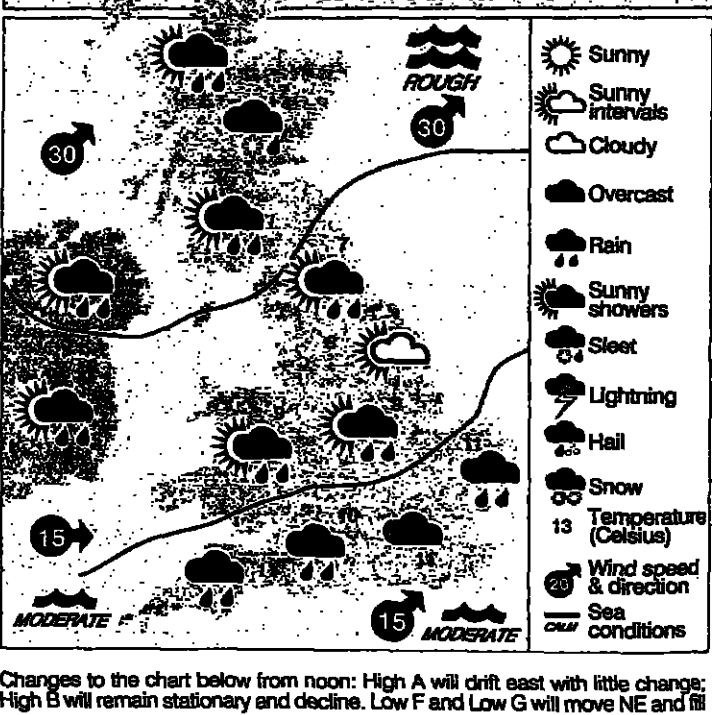
**NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England:** becoming cloudy with rain; brighter later. Wind west to southwest, moderate. Max 8C (46F).

**Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** sunnier and showers. Wind southwest, fresh or strong. Max 7C (45F).

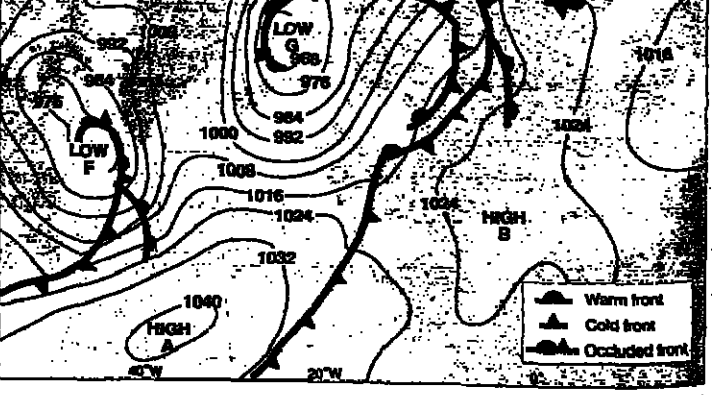
**S W Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** N Ireland: frequent showers. Wind west to southwest, strong. Max 7C (45F).

**Outlook:** rain spreading down from the north followed by sunshine and showers.


## NOON TODAY



## Changes to the chart below from noon: High A will drift east with little change;







Business tunes  
into the  
green message



How America gave  
Richard Eyre a  
direction for life



Danish manager  
has England  
in his sights

# THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY MARCH 9 1994



Meeting a Waterloo: Jason Brooks paints a picture to celebrate Britain's biggest telecommunications price cut. BT this morning abolishes its peak rate and has been followed by Mercury, making Britain the second most expensive country (after Australia) for local calls, not the most expensive. Report, page 26

## Clinton calls on the West to reduce unemployment

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

PRESIDENT Clinton is to urge the advanced industrial nations, including Britain, to change their monetary and fiscal policies to reduce unemployment in a move which will be in sharp contrast to British policy.

Though Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and David Hunt, Employment Secretary, yesterday denied there was any clash between Britain and the US over jobs, the White House's move is sharply at odds with the British Government's insistence that only further economic deregulation rather than economic demand management can cut unemployment.

President Clinton's markedly different approach is contained in a White House paper prepared for the jobs summit next week in Detroit of the Group of Seven advanced industrialised countries.

Launching the UK's own submission for the summit yesterday, the Chancellor repeatedly referred to the US document, but Whitehall officials subsequently refused to release it to journalists.

Though parts of the US paper — including those mentioned by Mr Clarke — are in line with UK labour market policy, its emphasis on demand management is wholly different to the economic policies pursued by the UK Government since the Conservatives came to power in 1979 and suggests that Mr Clarke's drawing upon it to support the UK case was highly selective.

The US paper says that while both frictional unemployment — people moving in and out of jobs willingly — and structural unemployment — a mismatch between the demand for labour and the available workforce, are both

important, it lays greater stress on cyclical unemployment, caused by variations in the economic cycle.

The US says that in all advanced countries "efforts must be made to reduce cyclical unemployment if all other forms of unemployment are to be reduced" and says clearly that job search, training or relocation programmes — the core of the UK Government's unemployment policies — cannot do anything about this form of unemployment.

President Clinton's paper says: "Only monetary and fiscal policies can deal with this problem of cyclical unemployment" — a call for macro-economic policies specifically tailored to reduce unemployment to which the UK Government will be unable to agree at the Detroit summit. Britain's responses to rising joblessness have been primarily structural, aimed at reforming the operation of the labour market, as the document published by Mr Clarke and Mr Hunt yesterday emphasised.

But the US paper gives a clear warning that such a policy will fail if it is not allied to more interventionist economic management: "Countries that pursue these structural improvements without taking steps to raise aggregate demand will see little or no return for their efforts."

The scale of the problem of combating unemployment is spelt out in the White House paper, which says that each leading country with high unemployment needs to see real annual economic growth of as much as 4 per cent — considerably higher than the Treasury is forecasting for the UK — to see unemployment fall by 1 percentage point over a year.

BUSINESS EDITOR  
Robert BallantyneBUSINESS  
TODAY

RED



America's no-frills airlines are a delight for cost-conscious travellers but a nightmare for the loss making industry  
Page 29

BLUE

The world's biggest advertising group has surprised the market with a downturn forecast for 1994  
Page 27

ORANGE



Hutchison is calling its new mobile phone network Orange to get away from techno jargon  
Page 26

BLACK

Fisons is seeking alliances with other drug companies to fill the black hole in its research pipeline  
Page 27, *Tempos* 29

## QMH board backed

By Melvyn Marcus  
City Editor

SHAREHOLDERS in Queens Moat Houses, the stricken hotels enterprise, voted in favour of a resolution at yesterday's extraordinary meeting to confirm the company's borrowing powers at £2 billion.

The directors, led by Stanley Metcalfe, the chairman, and Andrew Coppel, the chief executive, had already warned shareholders that if the increase in the borrowing limit was not approved, the company was unlikely to continue to trade. A poll at the South Bank Centre, London, produced 422,234,503 votes in favour, 1,065,791 against.

Questions were put to Mr Metcalfe as to whether the company had taken out a huge indemnity policy on behalf of the directors, as disclosed in *The Times* last Thursday. Mr Metcalfe insisted that this was not a matter for the meeting. QMH's indemnity premium is thought to be about £700,000.

Pennington, page 27

## Output rise calms fears for recovery

By Janet Bush  
Economics  
Correspondent

BRITAIN'S manufacturing output grew significantly in January, bouncing back after the fall in production recorded for December and allaying fears that industry's recovery was losing steam.

The Central Statistical Office said manufacturing output in January was 1.1 per cent higher than in December. The December figure was revised to a fall of 0.2 per cent, from 0.5 per cent previously reported. Industrial production, which includes the North Sea and energy sectors, rose by 0.8 per cent after December's 0.6 per cent fall.

A Treasury spokesman said the figures were encouraging. However, CSO statisticians noted that January's improvement, albeit "a good set of figures", was built on a lower base, because revisions of last year's data had lowered growth rates.

Manufacturing output in 1993 is thought to have risen by 1.8 per cent compared with 1992, against the 1.9 per cent

■ The apparently good news from British industry undermined hopes of another cut in base rates. Markets remain rattled by uncertainty over German interest rate policy

reported earlier. Industrial production is now reported to have grown by 2.5 per cent, rather than 2.7 per cent.

The apparently positive news from industry left British financial markets cold, partly because it undermined hopes of another interest rate cut but also because futures markets are still rattled by uncertainty over German rate policy. The FT-SE 100 index fell 41.5 points, to 3,264.4, and long-dated government bonds were down a full point. Sterling's trade-weighted index slipped to 81.0, from 81.2 on Monday.

The Bundesbank said it would hold a variable rate securities repurchase tender today, suggesting that it will edge its repo rate lower for the second week running. However, there was scepticism in the German bond market about the size of any cut. Technical weakness also persists.

The most significant turnaround in British manufacturing came in areas such as electronic engineering, computers and mechanical engineering, which accounted for most of January's output jump.

Industrial production continued to be helped by the North Sea, where oil and gas production together have exceeded the previous peak in 1987. Oil and gas extraction rose by 10.8 per cent in the three months to January, compared with the previous three months — a better guide to the underlying trend — and was almost 30 per cent higher than in the same period of 1992.

Several North Sea oil and gas fields have gone on stream in the past two months and have yet to reach full capacity, giving more scope for improvement, the CSO said. In contrast, coal output was

down 12.4 per cent, month on month, and almost 30 per cent lower than a year ago.

CSO statisticians said that, taking January's stronger figures into account, they believed manufacturing was growing at a trend rate of about 2 per cent, compared with December's estimate of 1 per cent.

In the three months to January, manufacturing output was 0.6 per cent higher than in the previous three, the sort of growth rate seen for much of last year. Industrial production was 0.9 per cent higher, three months against three months.

The latest cyclical indicators, also released by the CSO yesterday, suggest, however, that the recovery's momentum will not be maintained. The longer leading index, which is supposed to anticipate economic activity just over a year ahead, suggests that the economy is already flat overall.

Output in western Germany fell by a revised 0.5 per cent in the fourth quarter compared with the third.

Pennington, page 27

## Heseltine pressed for MGN bid decision

By Alexandra Frean  
Media Correspondent

MICHAEL Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, is coming under mounting pressure to decide within a week whether to refer the consortium bid, led by Mirror Group Newspapers, for *The Independent* to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

MPs from all sides yesterday expressed concern about the future editorial independence of *The Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday*, owned by Newspaper Publishing (NPP). Their action follows a letter sent by the National Union of Journalists to all MPs warning that the bid could make NPP part of Mirror Group in all but name.

Richard Cabor, the Labour chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry, last night wrote to Mr Heseltine, saying that the bid could result in a further concentration of media ownership "by default".

Robin Corbett, Labour's press and broadcasting spokesman, has also written to Mr Heseltine, demanding strict conditions of editorial independence be laid down should an MMC enquiry into the Mirror bid be waived.

Peter Mandelson, a Labour member of the all-party media group, and Lin Golding, Labour MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, have also voiced concern.

Mr Heseltine has received letters from at least four Tory MPs, as well as Robert MacLennan, Liberal Democrat press and broadcasting spokesman, and from the office of Sir David Steel, the Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman.

Pennington, page 27

## Creditors block \$1.8bn BCCI compensation

By Patricia Tehan  
Banking Correspondent

CREDITORS of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International have blocked the \$1.8 billion compensation agreed between the bank's liquidators and the Abu Dhabi authorities, the majority shareholders.

The only alternative to the agreement seems to be long litigation between the Touche Ross, the accountant and liquidator, and the Abu Dhabi.

The new agreement would have replaced a previous \$1.7 billion compensation deal, agreed in January 1992 but thrown out by the Luxembourg ap-

peal court last October. Any agreement requires approval by English, Cayman Island and Luxembourg courts. The English and Cayman Island courts had approved the deal despite objections from a group of creditors. But it was rejected on appeal in Luxembourg on the basis that it failed to treat all creditors equally.

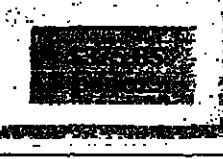
Brian Smouha, a Touche partner and the liquidator who negotiated the original agreement, has been in detailed talks with the Abu Dhabi since then. He put the new deal to the BCCI creditors' committee yesterday afternoon and was hoping to reveal the details later. But a Touche spokesman

said: "Due to unforeseen circumstances Brian Smouha is unable to make an announcement today." The committee, voted in by BCCI creditors last May, has the power of veto over the liquidators' actions. Yesterday, it seems to have decided the Abu Dhabi offer was not big enough.

The new deal found a way round the Luxembourg court objections to its predecessor. The Luxembourg judgment found the original agreement did not treat creditors equally because it would have meant their waiving the right to further claims against Abu Dhabi and because the Abu Dhabi authorities would take a 50 per cent

share of joint litigation with the liquidators against other parties.

The new agreement is understood to have excluded these clauses. It would have meant a payment of more than 15p in the pound to creditors. The liquidator has already said if he has to litigate against the Abu Dhabi, BCCI's 530,000 creditors will have to wait at least ten years for a payout. He has so far found about \$1 billion, but it cannot be distributed because the Abu Dhabi may sue BCCI for more than \$2 billion. They claim to have proof that \$2.6 billion to \$3.9 billion of their funds were used to prop up BCCI's fraudulent acts over nine years.

STOCK MARKET		THE POUND		GOLD	
FT-SE 100 3264.4 -41.5	DOW JONES 3849.75 -6.47	Dm 2.5519 -0.0090	US \$ 1.4878 -0.0024		BRENT CRUDE \$13.05 per barrel 8pm

LONDON CLOSING PRICES

MARKETS IN DETAIL PAGE 28, SHARE PRICES PAGE 30

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## Citicorp chief's pay leaps to \$6.2m

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON  
IN NEW YORK

JOHN Reed, chairman and chief executive of Citicorp, became America's highest paid banker last year, as executive pay and bonuses began to climb again.

Mr Reed's salary rose 92 per cent — while Citicorp's shares rose 66 per cent — but after bonuses his take-home pay tripled to \$6.2 million. He was also given share options, that will be worth \$21 million in ten years, providing the bank's share price rises at 10 per cent a year.

His soaring pay is among the first of the latest round of executive pay to be disclosed from annual filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Best paid for time spent on the job was Citicorp's Christopher Steffen, who was paid \$1.9 million for his first seven months in the job as head of cost-cutting. His annual salary would be \$3.26 million on that basis.

Robert Goizmeta, chairman of Coca-Cola, did almost as well with a 65 per cent rise in pay and other compensation at \$3.79 million. He also holds \$46 million of share options and a stake in the company, worth \$250 million.

Not quite in the same league, but paid 15 times the current US inflation rate is Kenneth Derr, chairman and chief executive of Chevron, the oil group, who took home \$2.77 million in salary and bonuses, a 45 per cent rise.

Meanwhile, on Wall Street, guesses at figures for the private partnership of Goldman Sachs have proved 35 per cent too low. Most thought the profits were \$2 billion. But documents filed as part of a money raising Eurobond issues indicate Goldman's profits last year were \$2.7 billion, on a turnover of \$13.2 billion.

Analysts say that gives it a 20.1 per cent profit margin, which eclipses 14.6 per cent at Merrill Lynch, Wall Street's largest stockbroker and investment bank, and 16.6 per cent at Salomon Brothers.

## OfTel cuts connection bills for BT's rivals

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

OFTEL is to overhaul the way BT charges rivals for links to its phone network. That will open the way for a switch in the way BT prices are capped by the regulator.

New terms for interconnection to BT's lines will cut the annual £500 million bill of smaller operators, such as Mercury and Vodafone, for delivering calls to BT customers.

Don Cruickshank, director-general of telecommunications, said the new terms would speed the development of competition because rivals would see for the first time how BT added up the costs. The terms were condemned as inadequate by Mercury, which is taking OfTel and BT to court over the method of levying interconnection charges. BT said it would accept them, but "regrets that OfTel have chosen from the various possibilities a costly increase in regulation of BT".

Equally important, publication of standard charges may also enable OfTel to revise the way BT prices are capped. A tough price control formula, imposed on BT by OfTel, has forced BT to make price cuts of £500 million a year since last August, and similar cuts are expected during 1994-5.

But Mr Cruickshank said that from 1997, when present controls expire, OfTel may stop capping retail prices, and oblige BT instead to limit the charges levied by BT to itself and others for use of its

network. Such a change would have far-reaching implications for the development of competition to provide phone services in the UK. The influence of BT's charging structure on industry prices, which has been attacked by rivals, would be sharply reduced.

Instead of allowing BT to cut prices in a way designed to defend its dominance, such a price cap would force down charges for all phone users, and force BT to compete on equal terms with its rivals.

A change in the price control regime will also be made possible by further separation of the accounting of BT activities. Announcing the new interconnection regime yesterday, OfTel said BT would be obliged to offer all smaller rivals identical terms to those agreed with Mercury after an adjudication by the regulator in December. That would lead to improved terms and quicker deals for most rivals, Mr Cruickshank said.

OfTel went ahead with publication of the proposals even though Mercury is mounting a legal challenge to the December adjudication on which they are based.

Mike Harris, Mercury's chief executive, accused Mr Cruickshank of "implementing yesterday's problems," adding: "What we need is a whole new regulatory approach capable of handling the complexities." The court action would continue, he said.



Don Cruickshank seeks more telephone competition

## Hutchison hopes for Orange blossom

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

HUTCHISON Microtel, part of Hutchison Whampoa, the Hong Kong telecommunications empire, is set to launch its mobile phone network next month as a direct competitor to Mercury One-2-One.

The network, which will be launched under the brand name "Orange" on April 28, is to be pitched at the mass-market consumer as well as the business user. This was precisely the marketing tack taken by Mercury One-2-One when it launched last September to differentiate

itself from the services offered by Vodafone and Celine, primarily aimed at the business market.

Hans Snook, group managing director of Hutchison Telecom in Britain, said the Orange network would combine the advantages of a mobile phone and a normal fixed line telephone. The brand name, which will replace Hutchison Microtel, was created to distinguish the network from those of its competitors and replace much of the "techno jargon" used in the industry.

The Orange network will be a national service providing coverage to 30 million

people initially, and 40 million people by the end of the year. It will cover 90 per cent of the population by the middle of next year. Hutchison Telecom, which is 65 per cent owned by Hutchison Whampoa and 30 per cent by British Aerospace, will invest more than £700 million in the network.

The latest launch marks Hutchison's second attempt at breaking into the mobile phone market. Its Rabbit telepoint service was scrapped last November at a cost of about £120 million after it managed to attract only 9,000 subscribers during its two year life.

## Laporte jumps but Brent cuts dividend

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

CONTRASTING fortunes in the specialty chemicals industry were spotlighted as Laporte reported higher profits and an increased dividend, while Brent International suffered a trading slump and cut payments to shareholders.

Laporte increased tangible profits by 24 per cent to £107.4 million in the year to January 2, although the results were influenced by the 11-month contribution of £27.6 million profit from Evode, the glue-maker taken over at a cost of £130 million. Ken Minton, chief executive, was also optimistic about 1994.

More than two-thirds of Laporte's business came from the UK and America, where any sustained upturn in the building industry would benefit the company.

During the year, organic speciality chemicals advanced operating profits to £22.3 million (£15.6 million), and the current order book is strong. Construction chemicals made good headway in spite of the recession in the construction industry in mainland Europe. Profits moved up 11 per cent to £19.8 million.

The hygiene and process chemicals division turned in profits of £17.4 million (£16.1 million), with the US water technology companies performing strongly. Overall, earnings per share rose 6 per cent to 41.4p, mirrored by an equal percentage increase in the yearly dividend to 20.7p, via a 13.3p final.

A less happy picture was seen at Brent International, where the total dividend is cut to 7.4p from 4p, after taxable profits slumped from £11.5 million to £7.1 million and earnings fell from 10p to 3.2p.

Keith Hutchings has been confirmed as chief executive, and Bill Jessup becomes finance director, while Alec Daley becomes deputy chairman.

Shares in Laporte fell 20p to 794p while shares in Brent fell 15p to 105p.

Tempus, page 29

## Baring group leaps to £100m

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARING, the City merchant banking group, saw profits soar last year to £100.1 million from £21.3 million.

Peter Baring, chairman, gave warning that it was unlikely that the factors working in favour of the bank's improved profitability would persist this year, but said: "The year has started well and I believe we will face no shortage of opportunity." Baring Securities recovered after reorganisation early in the year "and produced an outstanding result".

Funds under management by Baring Asset Management rose 42 per cent to £31.5 billion and its profits were substantially higher. The banking and capital markets business also contributed a major profit increase. The bank said Abbey National Baring Derivatives, its joint venture with Abbey National, which started trading in October, moved immediately into profit.

Profits before tax and capital note interest from investment banking activities shot up from £15.5 million to £72.8 million. Asset management contributed £32.4 million compared with £12.4 million in 1992.

The company is combining Baring Brothers and Baring Securities under a single management into one investment banking group. The changes will take place later this year. Mr Baring said this change in

structure "reflects the natural direction of our business and will enable us to make the best possible use of our talents and the world-wide opportunities available to us."

Mr Baring said falling interest rates and rising equity markets created a favourable environment last year. He said: "During the year, divergent economic conditions persisted, with depressed areas such as continental Europe and Japan contrasting with economies in recovery in the US and the UK and the faster-growing countries, particularly in Asia and Latin America. However, confidence in a more widespread recovery was maintained."



Baring: "opportunities"

BURNFIELD (Final)  
Pre-tax: £776,000  
EPS: 1.4p (8.5p)  
Div: 0.85p, mkg 2.5p

EXPANET INT  
Pre-tax: £17,000  
EPS: 0.75p loss  
Div: 1.25p, mkg 2.5p

GIBBS & DANDY (Final)  
Pre-tax: £262,000  
EPS: 7.4p (1.4p loss)  
Div: 1.5p, mkg 2.5p

INSTEM (Final)  
Pre-tax: £1,020m  
EPS: 14.8p (8.5p)  
Div: 1.8p, mkg 3.1p

LINREAD (Final)  
Pre-tax: £257,000  
EPS: 3.88p (2.21p)  
Div: 2.35p, mkg 3.92p

MR DATA MAN GROUP  
Pre-tax: £2,66m (£4.02m)  
EPS: 3.21p (4.89p)  
Div: 2.078p (1.73p)

SUNLEIGH (Final)  
Pre-tax: £206,000  
EPS: 0.05p (0.88p loss)  
Div: Nil (nil)

Profit in previous year was £2.7 million and total dividend was 5.75p. Turnover rose to £38.5 million from £29.8 million.

Final results. There was a £20.6 million loss in previous year when dividend was 3.25p. Gearing cut to 89 per cent from 125 per cent.

There was a loss of £124,000 in previous year. Operating profit rose to £988,000 from £253,000 despite difficult trading.

Profit in previous year was £575,000, and the total dividend was 3.1p. Turnover rose to £19.3 million from £14.3 million.

Profit in previous year was £297,000 and total dividend was 3.75p. Interest charge reduced to £225,000 from £794,000.

Interim results. Turnover was £19.9 million, against £16.6 million. Reorganisation costs were £382,000.

There was a loss of £557,000 in previous year, against £12.9 million. Reorganisation costs were £15.7 million from £12.9 million. Exports account for 45 per cent.

### BUSINESS ROUND

## Big German chemical firms suffer poor year

TWO leading German chemicals groups — BASF and Hoechst — reported a sharp downturn in profits, reflecting the industry's battle with European recession. BASF unveiled a better-than-expected pre-tax profit of DM1.06 billion for 1993 (DM1.24 billion), despite an exceptionally strong final quarter. But hard times hit Hoechst, whose pre-tax profits slumped to DM1.23 billion from DM2.11 billion. Both groups cut their dividends by less than expected. BASF lowered its payout to DM8 per share (DM10: Hoechst to DM7 (DM9)).

Despite the drop in profits, industry analysts believe both groups are well-placed to take advantage of economic recovery in Europe. The departure of Wolfgang Hilger, the Hoechst management board chairman, who will be replaced by Jürgen Dormann next month, is also regarded as a positive development. BASF managed to hold group sales at DM40.57 billion (DM41.93 billion). Hoechst, which was dogged by a pollution scandal in Germany last year, increased group sales fractionally to DM46.05 billion.

## Gartmore beats forecast

GARTMORE, the fund management group, made record profits of £24.6 million in 1993, £1.8 million higher than forecast at its flotation in November. Funds under management grew 64 per cent to £21 billion. Paul Myers, chairman, said the stock market rise before Christmas had boosted fees from institutional clients. This helped to lift Gartmore's net cash deposits to £31 million. The firm expects to distribute its first dividend at the halfway stage this year. Mr Myers said Gartmore's funds were likely to grow this year in spite of the recent fall in the stock market, since the firm had continued to win new pension fund business.

Tempus, page 29

## Suter property sell-off

SUTER, the mini-conglomerate, has hired property advisers to find buyers for much of its surplus property portfolio, which could have a value of £10-£15 million, and talks over a 40-acre site in Braintree, Essex, are advanced. Suter reported pre-tax profits more than doubled to £38.2 million (£15.2 million) in the year to December 31, helped by lower interest charges and a £19.1 million gain from the sale in April of the industrial valves division. The final dividend rose 0.2p to 5.8p, making a total of 9.2p (8.8p). David Abell, chairman, said that, discounting factory closure costs, the underlying operating profits rise was 7 per cent, to £21.9 million.

## Kerry savours advance

KERRY, the Irish food company, made pre-tax profits of £135 million (£33 million), up 22 per cent, last year. Earnings rose 17 per cent to 21.2p a share, before goodwill was written-off. Kerry shares rose 16p to 1r336p, valuing the group at £15.25 million. Profit margins were 5.7 per cent (5.8 per cent). Sales grew to £1r880 million (£1r826 million). Revenue in Ireland was £1r263 million (£1r278 million), £1r342 million (£1r330 million) in Europe and £1r242 million (£1r204 million) in North America. The proposed total dividend is 1r2.6p, up 15 per cent. At December 31, debt was £1r142 million, or 56 per cent of shareholders' funds.

## Job losses at Barclays

BARCLAYS yesterday confirmed 432 redundancies in London and the South East, two days before the bank is scheduled to unveil profits of more than £800 million. Unions are advising staff to appeal against the compulsory redundancies and will ask customers to sign a protest petition. Barclays said it used performance and attendance records to select the workers being made redundant. It added that new technology meant the jobs of many clerical workers no longer existed. The Banking Insurance and Finance Union described the action as brutal. The bank said it aimed to be as sympathetic and sensitive as possible.

## De Crespigny wins Aztec

ROBERT DE CRESPIGNY, the Australian mining entrepreneur, has emerged as the winner in the battle for the quoted Aztec Mining Group in an AS287 million (£138 million) bid, during which he had locked horns with fellow Australian group Pan Continental Mining. Mr de Crespigny's Normandy Poseidon Group owns 51 per cent of PosGold, which in December launched a bid at 68 cents, valuing Aztec at AS261 million. Aztec, the Australian affiliate of Alumax, the US metals group, owns the Bounty gold mine, and was wanted by other gold producers. PosGold recently raised its bid to 74 cents per share, valuing all of Aztec at \$287 million.

## Profits flow at Polypipe

POLYPIPE, the plastic pipes and fittings maker, made pre-tax profits of £7.45 million, a 16.3 per cent advance, in the six months to December 31. Bryan Stock, finance director, said the company, which supplies builders and plumbers' merchants in the maintenance and refurbishment markets, is confident of a "satisfactory performance" for the current year. Increased costs of raw materials contributed to a 1 per cent erosion in Polypipe's operating margin, though turnover grew 23.6 per cent to £60.8 million. The interim dividend is 0.71p (0.66p), from earnings of 3.2p (2.78p) a share. Polypipe shares firmed 3p to 176p.

## Plantsbrook lifts payout

PLANTSBROOK, the West Midlands funeral group, lifted pre-tax profits in 1993 by 33 per cent, to £12.02 million, on the back of a 4.5 per cent rise in turnover, to £52.05 million. It was helped by a 4 per cent increase in the mortality rate in the second half. Peter Hindley, chief executive, said the death rate in 1994 was unlikely to be as high. Profits also benefited from a sharp fall in interest charges. Plantsbrook repaid about £3.3 million of higher-rate debt and, as a result, the interest bill fell from £2.05 million to £796,000. Gearing fell from 54 to 28 per cent. The final dividend was lifted by 0.3p, to 2.5p.

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Half Year to 31 December 1993  
(unaudited)

	1992	1993	%
Operating Profit	£30.2m	£41.5m	+37%
Profit before tax	£29.1m	£38.6m	+33%
Earnings per ordinary share	4.9p	6.4p	+31%
Net dividend per ordinary share	1.7p	1.96p	+15%

## ENCOURAGING SIGNS.

Latest results demonstrate the strength of the Hays businesses and the success of our policy of seeking leadership in our markets.

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We face the future with confidence.



If you would be interested in a copy of the 1994 Interim Statement please contact David Beckley, Hays plc, Hays House, Millmead, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5HL Telephone 0443 302203. This advertisement has been approved by Thacker & Co. who are authorised to carry on investment business by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.



□ Stanley Metcalfe comes under fire □ Shares fall, contrariwise □ An Independent decision

## Another Queens Moat farce

AS WAS to be expected, Queens Moat Houses' borrowing powers were duly confirmed at £2 billion yesterday; the alternative being that they remained at £1.5 billion, with the enterprise put into liquidation. The whole affair, after all, was essentially a technical situation, reflecting a series of oversights regarding the rights of preference shareholders. All things being equal, therefore, the owners of at least a little bit of the company (after the banks have been satisfied) should have departed from the South Bank Centre to the chant of onward Christian hoteliers, or something along such lines.

But, alas, the chants were of a different nature. Not for the first time, shareholders departed from a Queens Moat public meeting privately venting their frustration.

Questions were raised over the scale of the indemnity policy taken out by Queens Moat Houses on behalf of its directors, reputed to have cost (shareholders) a premium in the region of some £700,000. Chairman Stanley Metcalfe refused to be drawn on this subject (disclosed in the Times last week) on the grounds that it was outside the parameter of the EGM.

Then, again, there was the shareholder who argued that, according to statistics supplied by Pannell Kerr Forster, a UK hotel bedroom is, on average, capable of generating income of close on £8,000 which, extrapolated, would indicate the generation of some £150 million to £170 million on the basis of an average performance. Metcalfe stonewalled. "Can we ever expect an average performance from you?" asked the despairing questioner. "You'll have to be the judge of that," retorted Metcalfe.

What, of course, still rankles with Queens Moat's shareholders are the lucrative packages proposed for Coppel and his co-directors; with £50,000 bonuses falling like confetti come such events as the finalising of the tortuous restructuring, a re-listing with further bunces in the event of the company proving the subject of a takeover bid. Metcalfe, as a non-executive chairman, appears to enjoy somewhat grander entitlements than the Cadbury camp advises and, all in all, such matters have served to take their toll on the board's credibility.

The message from the floor yesterday was that part of the fiduciary duties of the directors just might embrace such matters

as securing proper financing and maintaining a quotation on the Stock Exchange. Metcalfe indicated that contracts would be put forward to the remuneration committee—a matter which will doubtless focus the mind of Queens Moat's recent non-executive boarders.

What shareholders want from Coppel are details of an ongoing strategy rather than constant harping on his inheritance. The DTI inspectors will fill in the question marks over the former management.

Incredibly, it is the reputations of the new brooms which are now at stake.

### Disappointment for the gloomy

THE stock market is firmly stuck in the "good news is bad news" syndrome. This condition engages its sufferers in a simple-minded logic. January output figures were better than expected, so the Chancellor does not need to cut base rates immediately, so shares and bonds fall. This argument did



not wash in the foreign exchange markets, where sterling also fell, presumably because investors' lack of interest in British financial assets outweighed any comfort over short-term interest rates. UK gloom rules. OK.

In the real world, however, the good news is simply good. Despite the somewhat different gloss put on the figures, the January recovery recorded by the Central Statistical Office is entirely consistent with the steady, if naggingly slow, upturn reported in Monday's survey from the Institute of Directors.

Slicing through the surprising setback in December and unexpected buoyancy in January, the gain in industrial production in the latest three months over

the previous three suggests growth is running at an annual rate of about 3½ per cent. The IOD survey found service industries more optimistic than manufacturers, so there is no particular reason to think the better performance from the manufacturing and resource sectors is unrepresentative.

Even the Chancellor has readily accepted that the effects of April's tax rises on consumers will damp recovery. How much remains anyone's guess. But the economic upturn now looks to have quite enough momentum to ensure it is not stopped in its tracks. Indeed, at this stage, the Budget forecast of 2½ per cent growth in the economy as a whole this year is still looking as good a guess as any. That is not much to write home about in this phase of the cycle, but it is all Britain's unambitious policymakers are looking for. As yet, they certainly need not panic.

For the markets, there should also be some comfort, if tax rises really do bite, low inflation leaves room for further cuts in short-term interest rates. The scope for cuts might not be

enough to shore up economic growth if recovery ran into the sand, rather than just slowing to the forecast rate, but should offer adequate compensation for shares (and for gilt-edged if prices were not being driven by events elsewhere). On that basis, the Treasury and Bank should not fire off their remaining base rate ammunition just yet to an unappreciative audience, which already assumes a tiny cut will accompany the next inflation numbers.

### Chaos is a private matter

PRESSURE on Michael Heseltine to impose wholly formal conditions on the bid for Newspaper Publishing while avoiding a reference to the Monopolies Commission shows some heroically woolly thinking. The deal's complexity was always simply a mechanism for Mirror Group Newspapers to take control of The Independent without the need to put up money it cannot afford. If Mr Heseltine reckons an MGN takeover should be

questioned, which he well might given the alternatives, he should refer the deal.

The excuse invariably put forward in such cases that the papers face imminent closure is just a device to give the trade secretary an excuse to waive the mandatory reference if he thinks it a waste of public money.

In this case, commercial worries run far beyond a national newspaper losing its independence. Tony O'Reilly clearly believes that, as the biggest shareholder, he is being treated unfairly by being denied influence and in the cosy deal that will give contracts to MGN at the possible expense of Newspaper Publishing and its minority shareholders.

For all concerned, there must also be strong suspicion that the new set-up will not work. There is every prospect that consortium members will fall out and gang up on each other, the most likely mechanism for MGN gaining full nominal control to back its effective control. The dangers implicit in the ramshackle alliance are well illustrated by the crucial role to be played by an unnamed "expert" whose decisions will be final. It would be hard to imagine a more artificial device, or one that more clearly portended a chaotic time of troubles ahead. But these are not matters for Mr Heseltine.

## WPP surprises market with gloomy forecast

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

WPP, the world's biggest advertising group, surprised the market with a downbeat forecast for the current year, which suggests that growth in 1994 will not match that achieved in 1993.

Martin Sorrell, the chief executive, said budgets for this year, prepared on a cautious basis, indicated a 1.5 per cent revenue improvement on a like-for-like basis, against a comparable 4 per cent in 1993.

WPP said there had been no significant upturn in business during January, and signs of economic recovery in the developed economies were "weak and inconsistent". Analysts believe WPP is likely to exceed its budgets but were disappointed by the forecast. Further good news on debt reduction, however, pushed the shares 2p up, to 125p.

"It's a surprise—I would have expected about the same as last year, if not better," said Richard Sanderson at Parmer Gordon. "I think he may be being a bit cautious." WPP announced pre-tax profits of £54.4 million for 1993, against

a 1992 figure of £7.77 million that was greatly affected by one-off costs, including a £15.5 million bill for financial restructuring.

At the operating level, profits were 34 per cent ahead, at £95 million, on net revenues up 12.3 per cent to £143 billion. Exceptional items totalled £10.9 million, a fall of £18 million, and interest costs were reduced by £4.4 million.

As indicated at the time of the rights issue a year ago, WPP is paying a final dividend of 0.65p and a total for the year of 1.0p, out of fully diluted earnings per share of 3.4p. There was a two-year gap in payments.

The group's operating profit margin widened from 5.6 to 6.7 per cent, but this remains well below the levels enjoyed by its competitors or the industry average of 10 per cent. Staff costs dropped from 53 to 51.7 per cent of revenues, but WPP accepts that in "significant parts" of the group they remain uncompetitive.

The group's public relations business remains the most

problematic. Hill & Knowlton made an operating loss.

For the group as a whole, net cash outflow of £27 million came after a £28 million bill for earn-out payments in respect of businesses mainly acquired during the heady expansion of the 1980s. For the current year, analysts believe cash inflow should match the £19 million due from earn-outs, leaving the group broadly cash-neutral.

As expected, WPP is planning to float off up to 49 per cent of its market research businesses, Research International, Millward Brown and MRB, in either the US or the UK, in the second or third quarter of this year.

The sale of almost half the businesses would bring in up to \$200 million and cut average debts during the year to £200 million. Advisers are being sought for the flotation. The businesses concerned made 1993 operating profits of \$29 million, on revenues of \$320 million.

Tempos, page 29

## Fisons seeks partners and cuts payout as profits slump

By SARAH BAGNALL

FISONS, the struggling drugs and scientific equipment group, is seeking strategic alliances with several other companies to help fill the hole in its drug pipeline and share the costs of developing Remacemide, its epilepsy drug.

A gap was blown in the UK drug company's product pipeline last year when Tipredene, an asthma treatment, and its only promising drug close to launch, was pulled from development. Currently only Remacemide is in the lengthy full-development stage, but it has a lucrative asthma therapy franchise, which may appeal to other companies.

Patrick Egan, chairman, announced £53.6 million of restructuring charges, a change to a more conservative sales practice and the expected loss on the sale of a business. The costs knocked profits in the year to December 31 to £1 million from £123.6 million last time. The slump in profits was expected by the City after Fison's announcement last

December of the dismissal of Cedric Scroggs, its chief executive, the halving of its dividend and warning of zero profits for 1993. Yesterday, the shares held firm at 130p.

The final dividend was cut from 5.4p to 1p, making 4.3p for the year against 8.7p the previous year. Fisons intends to return to a normal balance

between the interim and final dividends during the year and is still seeking a replacement for Mr Scroggs.

Pharmaceuticals profits fell from £71.4 million to £42.2 million, reflecting a £40 million charge for ending year-end discounting to lift sales. Scientific instruments slumped into a loss of £39.6 million (£8.7 million profit) after a £21 million restructuring charge and Mr Egan said up to 30 per cent of operations will be closed or sold, and a £22.9 million exceptional charge was made for expected losses on the sales and the expected sale of the European horticulture businesses.

Fisons has five products, covering six disease areas, in the exploratory stage. It is seeking partners to spread the cost of developing them and bringing Remacemide to market. It is currently reliant on Intal, its anti-asthma drug, and its derivatives.



Egan: sales and closures

Tempos, page 29

## Claremont bids £43m for Magellan

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

CLAREMONT Garments has launched a £43 million recommended bid for Magellan Industries in a move that will strengthen its position as one of the leading suppliers of ladieswear to Marks and Spencer.

The offer, which is in the form of a swap of 0.4816 new Claremont shares for every Magellan share, values the latter at 170p. Magellan's shares closed at 173p on Monday. Claremont has already received support for its offer from shareholders representing 51 per cent of Magellan's ordinary share capital.

Peter Wiegand, chairman of Claremont, said the deal strengthened the

group by extending its range for M&S to include lingerie and swimwear. He added that the combination of Claremont's manufacturing skills with Magellan's marketing know-how would bring benefits. Magellan incurred an operating loss of £759,000 in the year to December 31 and Mr Wiegand hopes to lift operating margins to the 11 per cent achieved by Claremont. He said there would be few, if any, redundancies arising from the takeover.

The group has also bought Bellrise, the Teesside maker of ladieswear for Next, for £1.9 million. Bellrise, which has net assets of £1.2 million, made pre-tax

profits of £300,000 in the year to January 31. The latest deals are the first significant acquisitions made by Claremont since it bought J&J Fashions and Alexander Milnes in 1992.

The deals were unveiled with Claremont's results for the year to December 25, which showed a 35 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £85 million to £115 million. A final dividend of 4.5p (3.95p) brings the total for the year to 8.1p (7.25p), an increase of 12 per cent. Magellan shareholders are not entitled to Claremont's final dividend, but they will receive an interim dividend of 1.4p from their own shares.

## UK revival boosts profits at Hays

A REVIVAL in its UK markets and a flood of new distribution contracts boosted interim profits at Hays, the business services group, by 33 per cent (Susan Gilchrist writes).

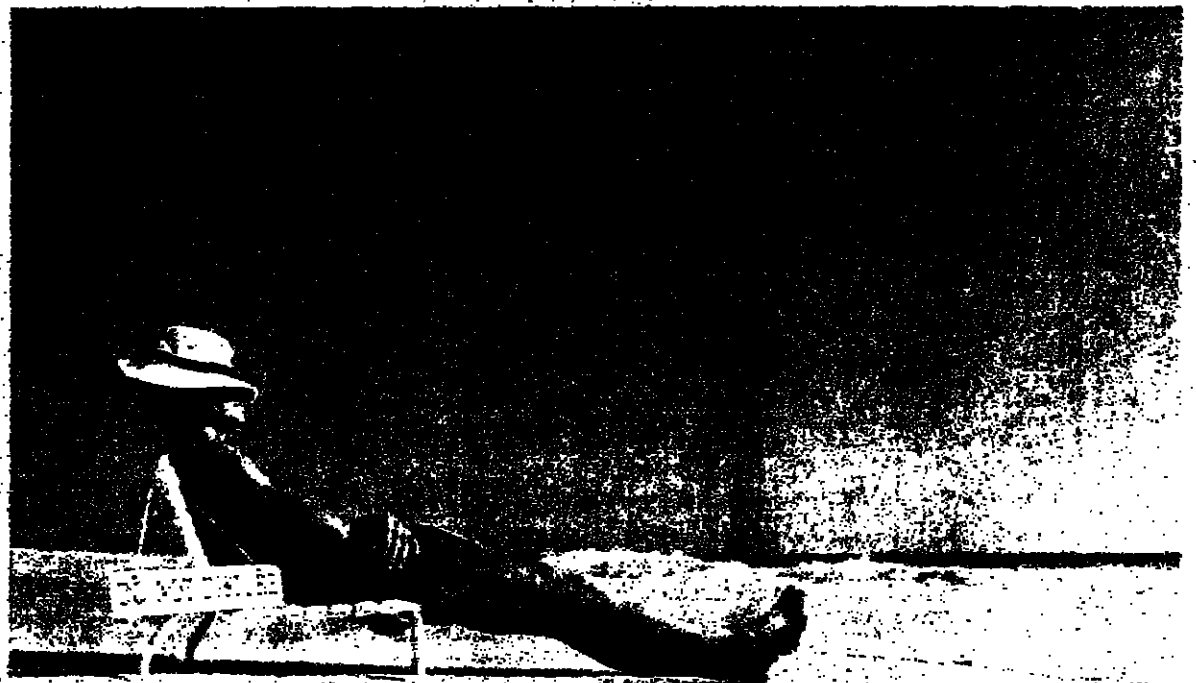
Pre-tax profits rose from £29.1 million to £38.6 million for the six months to December 31, and the interim dividend is increased 15 per cent from 1.7p to 1.95p.

Ronnie Frost, the chairman, said the large percentage rise in profits partly reflected last year's weak figures, depressed by recession in Britain.

While trading conditions in Britain have slowly improved, Mr Frost said France and Germany, which account for just under 20 per cent of operating profit, continue to suffer. He said the distribution businesses had bucked the trend by winning new contracts and offering higher added-value services. "Prices are very competitive for standard business. But if you can offer added value, you can get price increases," Mr Frost said.

Operating profits from distribution rose 34 per cent to £23.4 million (£17.5 million), helped by new contracts and a first-time contribution from Mordhorst, the German distributor acquired in June. But chemical distribution continued to suffer from weakness in world caustic soda prices, with rates reduced by 30 per cent.

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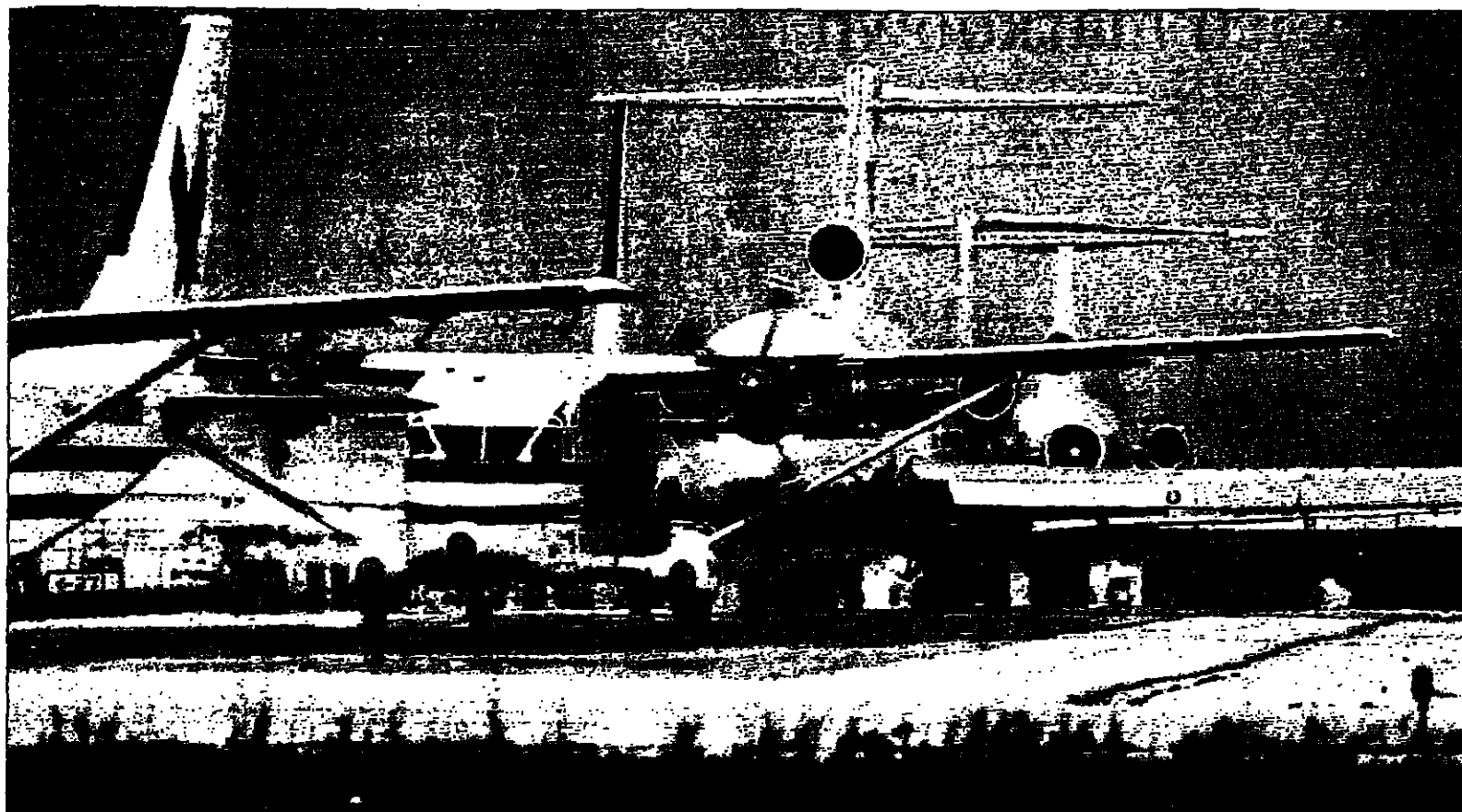
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Queuing for take-off at Chicago's O'Hare Airport. Competition has squeezed US domestic fares by up to 80 per cent, and few carriers make money

## America's no-frills airlines win mastery of the skies

At £24, it is probably the most expensive breakfast in Britain. The price represents the extra that UK air passengers pay, compared with their American counterparts, for full cabin service on a 500-mile inter-city flight. The return fare from London to Glasgow is £224 including meals, drinks and a seat you can count on. From New York to Chicago, the price is \$158 (£100): no meal, no drinks and no reserved seats. The most offered in the way of cabin service will be peanuts and a cup of coffee. US passengers like it that way. In a country where service was once everything, price is the governing factor in a world of no-frills airlines.

Direct comparison between Britain and the US is misleading, since the UK does not always have the route competition prevalent in America. But the prices dramatically illustrate changes in the US market that are forcing airlines to cut costs or be grounded for good. USAir, British Airways' American associate, this week revealed the scars of a savage price war being fought while its own costs are too high: there will be no profit for the sixth consecutive year. This year's \$330 million loss will bring the total since 1988 to almost \$3 billion.

Julius Maldutis, senior airline analyst with Salomon Brothers, the New York investment bank, says: "I believe 1994 will be a transition year for the US industry. It will become very clear which companies have succeeded in developing strategies to live in the new environment and which have not."

He does not share the optimism of other airline analysts, judging that the industry will break even this year and that carriers will have to wait until 1995 for real profits. Some airlines are cutting back and trying to squeeze freebies by increasing the frequent-flyer miles needed for a free trip.

It used to be conventional wisdom that after losing almost \$12 billion in the past three years, US airlines would soar into the black this year, powered by economic recovery. USAir blew that apart on Monday. The carrier, America's fifth-largest, in which BA owns a stake of almost 25 per cent, has been trying to act as a full-service airline in a market where customers choose solely on ticket prices. In some cases, these have plunged by 80 per cent.

The seeds of today's turmoil were sown

British Airways' chosen US partner has so far failed to adapt to domestic travellers' new-found taste for rock-bottom fares. Philip Robinson reports

26 years ago by Herb Kelleher, who co-founded a small airline from a place called Love Field, in Dallas, Texas, and grew it into Southwest Airlines, now the seventh-largest US carrier. In the early days, few people took much notice of this quirky local airline, which adopted "love" as its theme. Its female cabin staff sashayed down the aisle in hot pants, serving passengers drinks called love potions and peanuts called love bites. Mr Kelleher himself appeared on flights impersonating Elvis Presley, an Easter bunny or a leprechaun, to drum up business. Southwest, however, has made profits throughout the recession; it was one of only two US carriers to end last year in the black. In the 1970s, expansion was confined to Texas, but in the 1980s, Southwest challenged big carriers for

1987. Massive job losses, as corporate America shrank in the recession, robbed the airlines of business travellers, who usually pay full fares, travel at a moment's notice and represented the mainstay of the industry.

Mr Maldutis says many observers saw the problem as too many airlines and too many seats, but the demand side was not addressed. "In the old days, the airlines could raise the tariff 100 per cent, but business travellers still had to travel. Now they pick up the phone. The implications are clear: discretionary travel requires low fares and low fares require low costs." The impact of technology could drive business travel down even further, as telephone conference links, picture telephones and personal computers mounted with their own video cameras become more widespread. One of the few areas to stand up to this is expected to be the international business travel market, in which US airlines are not dominant, but where British Airways has been strong for many years. One industry consultant says:

**"In the old days, you could double fares but business travellers still had to fly. Now they pick up the phone"**

"International business still requires the human touch to consummate the transaction or negotiate a contract. International business will continue to expand."

Of *Fortune* magazine's list of the world's top ten airlines for 1992, released recently, only British Airways made a profit. USAir, is seen as suffering from bad labour relations, as well as high costs. It now faces not only a strike threat by its unions over pay, but competition from two carriers that are increasingly invading its air space.

It has made changes, but not fast enough to keep pace with the market. Fares, and meals, have been cut and last month the carrier announced a new service linking 18 cities on a point-to-point basis as the first phase of redesigning short-haul services. It has

also cut its turnaround time from 45 minutes to match Southwest's 25 and claims a 17 per cent increase in efficiency.

USAir aims for similar efficiencies on long-haul routes but declines to give details. It is far behind Southwest, which is regarded as the role model for the new era. Until recently, industry competitors disdainfully described Southwest's boarding process as the "cattle call" — a scramble for seats the instant staff announced that an aircraft was ready for boarding. The melee was compared to the first day of a store sale.

Southwest does not transfer luggage between airlines, has no first class section and asks cabin staff to clean the planes. Turn round in less than half an hour, 110 passengers off, 110 on. That generates more revenue per aircraft and the lack of service means Southwest needs only the permitted minimum number of cabin crew for safety.

While the push and shove atmosphere of the new market hardly suits briefcase and notebook computer travellers, most passengers have demonstrated that, for short trips, they would rather pay a fifth of the fare than receive the full treatment.

Southwest has also tackled one of the industry's weak spots — labour costs, which rank with fuel as the largest single expense. The carrier is unionised but its staff and pilots work longer hours than their competitors and services are flown to smaller airports, where fees are lower. Operating costs are 25 per cent less than the industry average. Revenue per passenger mile rose 20 per cent last year — four times faster than that of any other major carrier — and loads were up to 11 per cent higher. According to the Department of Transport, Southwest also carried more passengers than any other airline in the country's 100 busiest markets.

Its city-to-city travel is shaking the 1980s theory that most lucrative airline business would come through "hub and spoke" route systems, which funnel passengers into a central point before fanning them out to their destinations.

Southwest flies in a straight line and offers little of the pampering that was once associated with the glamorous world of the skies. But its shares have doubled in the past year.

## TEMPUS

### A sharp intake of breath

At least Fisons' regular trading updates had prepared the City for the worst, but there was little other comfort in the group's results. The litany of financial mismanagement, misjudgement and misfortune is so long it is hard to believe the group can start with a clean sheet, however copious its provisioning.

To be fair, Fisons has taken many hard decisions and will feel the benefit from them. By calling a halt to its self-deluding practice of flooding the wholesalers with excess stock before the year-end, it should see margins rise as discounting ends and the group's manufacturing plants no longer have to struggle with seasonal peaks in demand. Profits will be further enhanced by the £35 million cost-saving programme and the neutralisation of the losses from scientific instruments.

The early sales of Tilade show it is fulfilling

its potential as an anti-asthma drug. The returns should be enhanced as Fisons' rolls out a range of delivery systems that are free of CFCs.

But the dearth of drugs in Fisons' development pipeline leaves the management with few cards to play in future years. Remacemide is hardly an answer since the group admits it needs a joint venture partner to develop it. Fisons' other drugs are at too early a development stage to pin any hopes on.

The shares have fallen as the immediate takeover speculation has fizzled out and at 130p are now an attractive each way bet. On a current year p/e ratio of 11 and a prospective yield of 4.8 per cent they look cheap providing the group can secure long-term future. If not, there is still a good chance of a bid once the group has put its house in better order.

### WPP Group

LIKE Saatchi & Saatchi, WPP is finding that the process of dragging itself out of a mire of high debt, low margins and worldwide advertising recession is a slow one. At least WPP has a few tricks up its sleeve to cut its once-crippling borrowings.

There have been three

clear strategies to this end.

Debt, helped by the £85

million rights, was trimmed

to £84 million against £240

million last year. A long-

term debt issue has appar-

ently been ruled out. Of the

two subsidiary flotations al-

ready proposed, the sale of a

minority in the market re-

search side is now seen as the

most attractive, with a listing

of the Far East advertising

side on the back burner. The

latter deal, despite the suc-

cessful New York debut of

Amway Corporation's Far

### East businesses, would have

been wildly complex and

undermined by the poor

state of the Japanese market.

The market is finding it

hard to decide how much of

Martin Sorrell's gloom

about prospects for this year

is merely natural caution,

but his acceptance of a

slower rate of revenue

growth has led to a few

### dowgradings. Assuming

£85 million pre-tax, the

shares now sell on a reason-

able forward multiple of just

short of 20. But the banks

will be able to convert the

remaining 75 per cent of

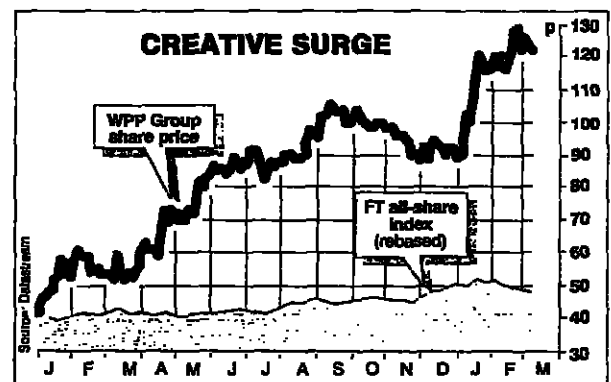
their convertibles, or 200

million shares, in Septem-

ber, which should serve as a

brake to any further substan-

tial progress for the price.



### Laporte

LAPORTE prides itself on being the unglamorous workshop behind many large pharmaceutical companies. For them, subcontracting raw material production makes sense, and its organic products division lifted profits 40 per cent at a time of low growth in overall chemicals markets.

But Laporte is not entirely escaping the recession. Like-for-like sales were 10 per cent ahead in 1993 while profits grew only 5 per cent. Evode proved its worth, by contributing the bulk of the £38 million boost to operating profits in 1993. Stripping out exchange rate gains from Laporte's £319 million of North American sales, profits before the contribution from acquisitions increased only by a whisker.

Laporte is unlikely to stand still in 1994, with the prospect of squeezing more profit from Evode, where margins are almost 3 points below the group average. Further improvements in operating eff-

iciency and the prospect of recovery in construction markets makes Laporte look inexpensive at 16 times' current year earnings.

### MDIS

SOFTWARE companies have a knack of exciting investors with their potential for expanding margins. After all, once the expense of writing the programme has been incurred, the marginal extra cost of doubling your sales is merely the price of the floppy discs, in theory at least. MDIS, while not a pure software company, demonstrates that potential in its recent trading record, which shows operating margins rising from 10.4 per cent in 1991 to 15 per cent in 1993, while over the same period turnover fell 14 per cent to £143 million.

MDIS has carved out a profitable niche in the public sector and is making inroads into the highly competitive IT market. Less glamorous but more secure is its facilities management business

where MDIS earns gross margins of 25-35 per cent on five-year contracts with major public sector organisations. That secure income stream explains why the offer price is so full, at 15½ times forecast earnings.

### Gartmore

THE late surge in the stock market last year helped justify Gartmore's expensive flotation and the shares now stand 14 per cent higher than the offer price. 1993 was a vintage year for Gartmore as it managed to combine the bull market with solid organic growth in its funds.

The company must now curd its top-sided bias towards institutional business by developing its personal finance product range and has the profitability and cash resources to back a series of high profile unit and investment trust launches. But the shares remain highly geared to the stock market performance, particularly since Gartmore seems reluctant to start paying dividends.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Head-hunters defect from GKR

ROBERTO Quarta, recently appointed chief executive of BBA, the car and aviation parts group, has unwittingly triggered a furious row in the tight-knit world of executive search. Quarta, an Italian-American, joined BBA from BTR, the industrial group, where he was tipped as heir-apparent to Alan Jackson, the chief executive. To BTR's fury, he was poached by the company's appointed head-hunting firm, Goddard Kay Rogers, breaking the golden rule that you never poach from your own clients. The fall-out from the deal has finally come crashing to earth this week with the news that GKR's South of England office, based in Bath, has defected en masse. BTR was the Bath office's most important client, a GKR partner in London did the poaching, and the result is that David Nickell, who ran the regional office, has set up on his own, taking BTR's business with him. All in all, more bad news for GKR, which has struggled to regain its direction in the 14 months since founder David Kay died in a plane crash.

EXIT Guy Lamming, media analyst at James Capel for the past three years, who is off to join his old colleague Neil Blackley at Goldman Sachs. Lamming, 28, departs this week for a three-month break, which will include a diving trip to the Maldives in the Indian Ocean. The mantle now passes to Jonathan Helliwell, Capel's top-rated paper and packaging analyst.

### Bubble bursts

GO EASY on George Pitcher, former industrial editor of the *Observer*. Last week, a well-dressed, stockily built man, 5ft 11ins and aged about 45, wan-

dered into the Blackfriars office of Luther Pendragon, his media consultancy. He was, he said, the brother of the manager of the Coach and Horses, one-time drinking haunt of Jeffrey Bernard and had some Louis Roederer Cristal, Bollinger and Moët & Chandon going cheap. A few minutes later, Pitcher had agreed to take a couple of cases and sent his secretary to cash a cheque for £350. The money was handed over, the man went off to fetch the champagne, and... you can guess the rest. "He was so slick," says Pitcher. "He hit my weak spot. I had a hang-over and it was just before

lunch." Someone in Carter Lane was stung for £900 by the same conman. Embarrassingly, Pitcher has just written an article for *Marketing Week* on the dangers of buying out-of-date drink.

### Driving force

THEY say it always rains in Manchester. David Buxton, formerly of Provident Life in London, is probably inclined to agree since moving north to become Henry Cooke Lumsden's motoring analyst six months ago. Shock number one was the local constabulary towing his car away three months into his tenure after he parked it on a yellow line near the office. He reported its disappearance to the police, only to be told: "We've got it here." Lightning struck a second time late last week when Buxton was pulled up by local police for speeding — to much sniggering from his colleagues. "We have been ribbing David a bit about his car problems, particularly as he's the motoring analyst," says one. "He also looks the spitting image of Chris Evans on *TV's The Big Breakfast*. That somehow makes it more amusing." Office wags are now wondering whether, like Manchester

United FC, Buxton will be "going for the treble" as far as police/vehicle relations are concerned.

### In the spotlight

SPARKS may fly in the plush surroundings of the Caledonian Hotel, Edinburgh, on March 18, where the new insider dealing legislation will come under the spotlight at a seminar arranged by the Securities Institute. The audience will include Thorold Mackie, investment analyst at Bell Lawrie White, who recently had a conviction for insider dealing against him quashed. The speakers will include Mike Feltham who, as head of surveillance at the London Stock Exchange, would have taken more than a passing interest in the Mackie case. Watch for flying missiles...

GRAHAM Cole, corporate finance partner at Coopers & Lybrand, can expect a rough time when he turns up at the annual PLC Dinner in London tomorrow night. He is back in the office on crutches after a skiing trip, claiming a woman fell off a ski lift on to his foot. Uh, sure...

JON ASHWORTH

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## BUSINESS &amp; THE ENVIRONMENT

Rodney Hobson on the Business Commitment to the Environment Awards

## Britain is finally coming clean

The tide of European Community policies on the environment will involve businesses in substantial costs, major managerial changes and modifications to technology and products, according to a report just issued by Environmental Policy Consultants (EPC).

There will, however, be fresh market opportunities for those companies that think European and there is plenty of scope to lobby Brussels on policy-making, the London-based EPC says.

The report, *EC Environmental Policy Monitor*, says there are 96 EC environmental proposals in the pipeline to add to the 34 adopted in 1993 and the 500 environmental laws already enacted. Bans on waste disposal will cost £160 million a year; phasing out gases that harm the ozone layer will cost £500 million; tighter controls on the storage of petrol will cost £40,000-£60,000 per filling station; testing dangerous chemicals will cost £7 million per chemical; cleaning up contaminated land could run up a bill as high as £40 billion.

More proposals covering issues such as air quality, emissions from aircraft and water quality are imminent.

Adrian Wilkes, of EPC, says: "A torrent of environmental policy proposals is being unleashed, presenting British business with an unprecedented managerial challenge. Business must lift its attention beyond the recession to the medium-term challenge and opportunities within the Community's environmental agenda."

"All companies will be affected through stricter pollution controls, green taxes,

energy efficiency requirements, labelling, civil liability, disclosure of information, tighter waste control and mandatory recycling."

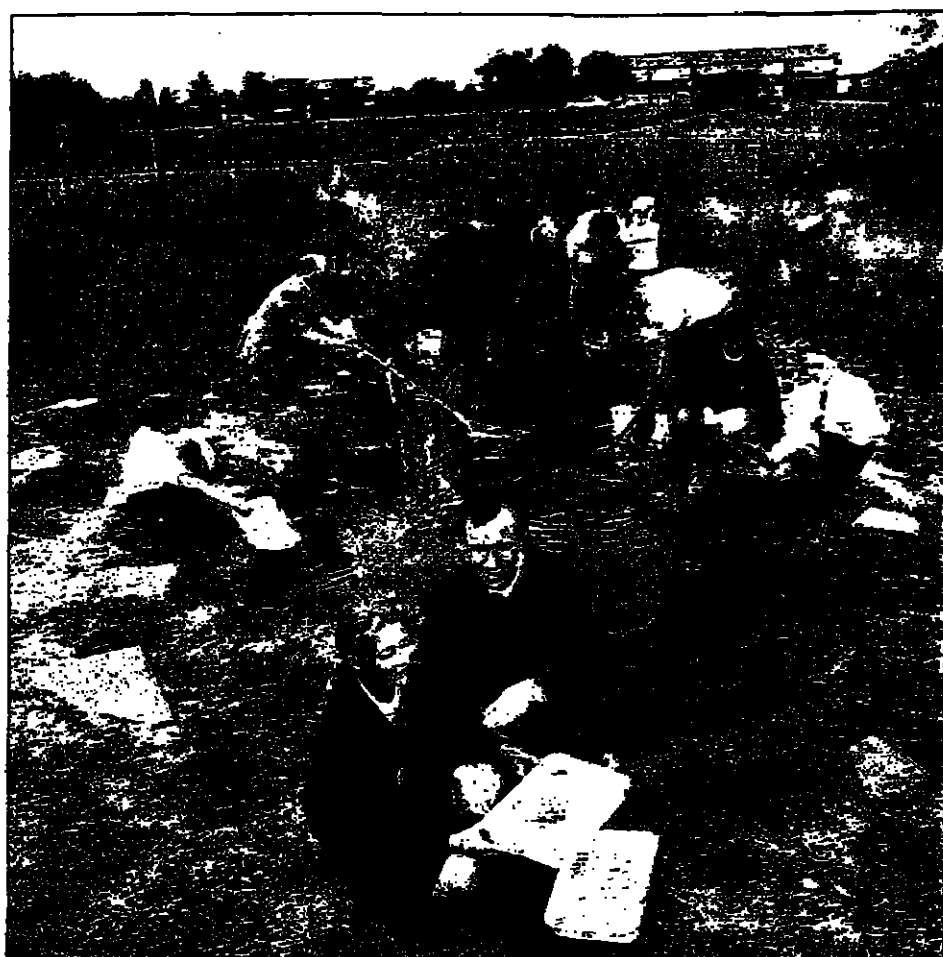
Yannis Palekrassas, the EC Environment Commissioner, says: "In 1993, there was a quiet revolution signifying a radical change of attitude. The most striking feature is undoubtedly the preparation of a long-term strategy to reconcile environment, growth and jobs."

For many British businesses, large and small, the notion of caring about the environment is already standard policy. More than 1,700 entries have been submitted for the Business Commitment to the Environment Awards since they began in 1975.

Sir Peter Parker, president of BCE, says the awards, which are sponsored by British Gas, have revolutionised business attitudes to the environment over the past two decades.

"When we started these awards, environmental policies were few and far between on the British scene. Environmental commitment was still a radical idea, seemingly too far from the bottom line," he says.

Sir Peter says managers felt that coping with the environment was an added burden. Now, the realistic manager is likely to wonder whether he will have a job long term if he does not address environmental issues.



Award-winner: Cramlington Organisation for Nature and the Environment in action

"UK companies have been under mounting pressure to come clean. The call comes not only from politicians here and in Brussels, but from shareholders and the stakeholders such as employees, the customers and the local community," he says.

"Green has become the most fashionable of colours in the market-place."

There is no restriction on the type of project that can be entered. Past winners have included blue-chip companies, rural and city centre projects, innovative corporate policies, new environmentally friendly processes and community-based projects.

The assessors are looking for a genuine commitment to the environment that goes above legal requirements and commercial necessity and which will be long-lasting.

Sir Peter says: "The prize-winning project must be seen to be part of a total approach reflecting a philosophy, a policy and a managerial programme that makes sense for everyone in that working community."

Dr Robin Henshaw, BCE's secretary, says that the recession has so far not halted interest in the BCE's annual awards. "Some larger companies do have a long lead-in time for their projects so we may feel the pinch after the recession has lifted," he says.

"However, my impression is that the sort of companies that have always entered for the awards are the ones that have not lost interest in the environment and see the environment as a crucial part of company policy."

Dr Henshaw says that larger companies that expect their suppliers to conform to quality standards will make similar demands for compliance with environmental standards.

He concedes that caring for the environment can be double-edged. "There is a desire to co-operate, but a lot of com-

panies do seem to be holding off. In some cases, environmental work has actually saved money but there is also a realisation that where a great deal of remedial work needs to be done it may be financially necessary to scale down operations."

Dr Henshaw is encouraged by signs that environmental issues are spreading through companies. He says: "Grass-roots interest is something we are trying to nourish. If the top management is interested it does tend to percolate down to the workforce."

Sir Peter is also keen to stress the benefits of caring for the environment. He says: "Consistently we have found that award winners are pace-makers in profitability, too."

Send applications for next year's awards, launched today, to: Dr Henshaw, executive director, Groundwork Trust, 8 Chapel Street, Shrew, Oldham L2 8AJ

## Cities are more than bricks and mortar

Urban regeneration is not just about bricks, mortar and the layout of cities. It is about the people who live there, their quality of life and how it can be improved.

This philosophy has become an integral part of the many initiatives developed by the organisations and associations which are linking with businesses to create better urban conditions.

Gerald Cary-Elwes, secretary-general of the British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA), sees two distinct ways of improving things: community service in the inner cities to make life better for those who live and work there, and a fresh look at the effect of traffic jams, pollution and road planning in the urban areas.

In London, for example, community service initiatives which include community centres and business, are being highly praised. "We are thinking in greater terms of how the business community can be more involved in alleviating urban decay and be much more orientated towards people," Mr Cary-Elwes says.

BURA has set up a research council to look at what has been done so far. Any projects it thinks have been worthwhile may be repeated in other areas.

Of specific interest to the council will be the effects of new roads on those living in the area. "We do not really think about the people whose homes are going to be affected and it should be borne in mind," Mr Cary-Elwes says. Other forms of transport, such as trams, are also of interest. At the request of a retailer, BURA is studying the use of park-and-ride schemes to see whether inner cities should continue to have a shopping heart or whether shops would be better placed in parks on the outskirts of towns.

A way of improving inner cities is the creation of urban

**Town planners should look at the working and leisure time of a population**

villages, a development promoted and backed by the Prince of Wales. He is active in pursuing the idea following the Urban Villages Report last year in which it is suggested that "villages" with populations of about 3,000 to 5,000 could have the traditional community life of work and play within an inner city area.

The Prince and planners see Silvertown, in the Royal Victoria Docks in London, as



The Prince: looking ahead

a perfect site for such a village. The Prince recently went to see what the Urban Villages Forum had planned for the 78-acre site. It includes about 1,800 homes and will produce jobs and public facilities to support a community of up to 5,000 created around the existing tower blocks, tidal basin and pontoon dock.

The vision follows the London Docklands Development Corporation's own proposal for an urban village which has the Government's backing under the Private Finance Initiative.

This is not the only initiative with which the Prince is

involved. He has just launched his Business and the Environment scheme to bridge the gap between business and environmentalists.

He particularly wants to attract the business leaders of tomorrow who he believes, understand that collaboration is more productive than confrontation and — like today's young managers — know and care far more about what is happening to the planet.

His high-powered programme, which is being sponsored for the first three years by a number of major companies, is tied to the University of Cambridge Programme for Industry and the highlight will be an annual four-day seminar in Cambridge.

The first — for 40 senior managers to be held in September — will look into a green future. Part of that future includes the reclamation of contaminated land in Britain, a CBI initiative.

John Cridland, CBI environmental director, says there are about 200,000 hectares (about the size of Warwickshire) awaiting reclamation, but only 3 per cent of that poses a serious hazard. The contamination has been caused by 200 years of industrial waste, which includes factories, steel and gas works, mine workings, farmland and even military sites.

The CBI plans a road show in May to the six main cities where the 250 members of the CBI environment business forum and other interested CBI members can learn what to do.

The CBI has collected guidelines on good practice and standards against which the land can be cleaned up. Those on the priority list include landfill, waste or explosives sites which were not cleared up properly when abandoned, and need to be, particularly if houses are going to be built there.

DAVID THURLOW

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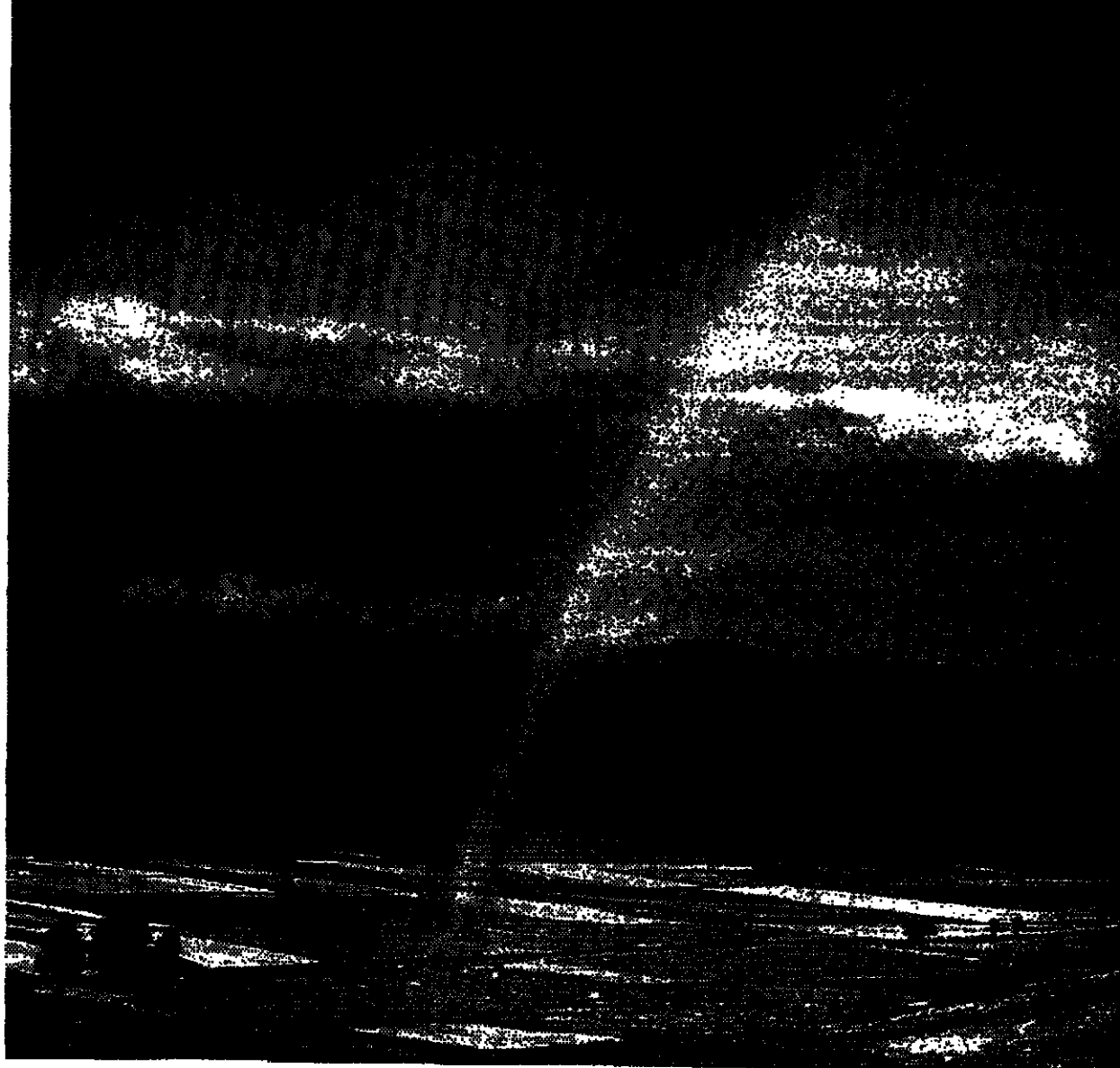


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The attitude of business to its surroundings has been revolutionised. David Young reports

# Accolades for six of the best

THE assessors for this year's awards have decided to make six "premier" awards, underlining the diversity of the entries submitted. They range from a holiday village, where the British climate can be ignored, to a complex chlorine-handling facility whose new safety and environmental features have helped large areas of surrounding land to become more productive. John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, will be handing out the prizes today.

## ALBRIGHT AND WILSON

AT ITS Oldbury works in the heart of the Black Country, Albright and Wilson has been using and storing chlorine for more than 70 years with a 100 per cent safety record.

However, the storage and handling of chlorine has meant that to comply with environmental and safety legislation, a 2km "restriction" zone around the works had been designated. The new facilities developed at Oldbury, which change the way in which chlorine is delivered to the site and the amounts that need to be stored, mean that the restricted zone has been cut to just over a 750m radius. This means that an area which houses 47,000 people and has 31 schools is being freed from planning restrictions.

The BCE award comes close on the heels of an award for the company by the Royal Town Planning Institute. Ian Woodhouse, manager of the Albright and Wilson Oldbury works, says: "The new chlorine-handling facility is a unique project involving Albright and Wilson, the Black Country Development Corporation and the regulatory authorities working together to reduce the environmental implications of our activities to the lowest possible risk."

The project has led to an estimated increase in land values around the plant of £10 million with new plans for housing, industrial development and hotel and leisure developments now possible. The ultimate benefits to the community are immeasurable, and by taking action before it may be compelled by future legislation the company has strengthened its reputation as a good neighbour.

The project has also enabled the Black Country Development Corporation to offer the company interest-free loan support for two years. This, in turn, has helped the company to bring the project forward by two years, to complete a "virtuous circle".

THE market leader in the United Kingdom in providing year-round short-break holidays in woodland settings, Center Parcs has won its award for its philosophy of retaining and enhancing the natural setting at its holiday centres. This allows visitors to enjoy nature while at the same time providing a forest environment which absorbs people, buildings and cars with minimal impact on the wider landscape.

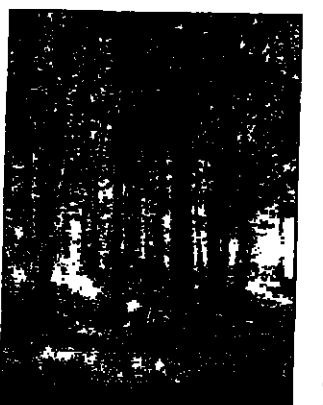
The two Center Parc sites in Britain, in Sherwood Forest in Nottinghamshire and at

Elveden Forest in Norfolk, have already won several awards for their design, their energy efficiency and for their contribution to the local environment. This latest award is for the overall environmental policy which controlled the Elveden development.

The process starts with site selection, with landscape consultants asked to make sure that the village will have no adverse effect on the character of the countryside. Ecologists then undertake a survey to ensure that the chosen site meets the criteria of relatively low existing ecological value and they also identify any nearby sites of ecological value. Planning consultants are then brought in and engineering consultants carry out an appraisal to determine that access, drainage and servicing can be provided with minimal disruption to the area.

Only if these criteria are met does detailed research start to ensure that the project can be integrated into the local environment.

Wherever possible, existing trees are retained and at the two UK sites more than 500,000 native trees and

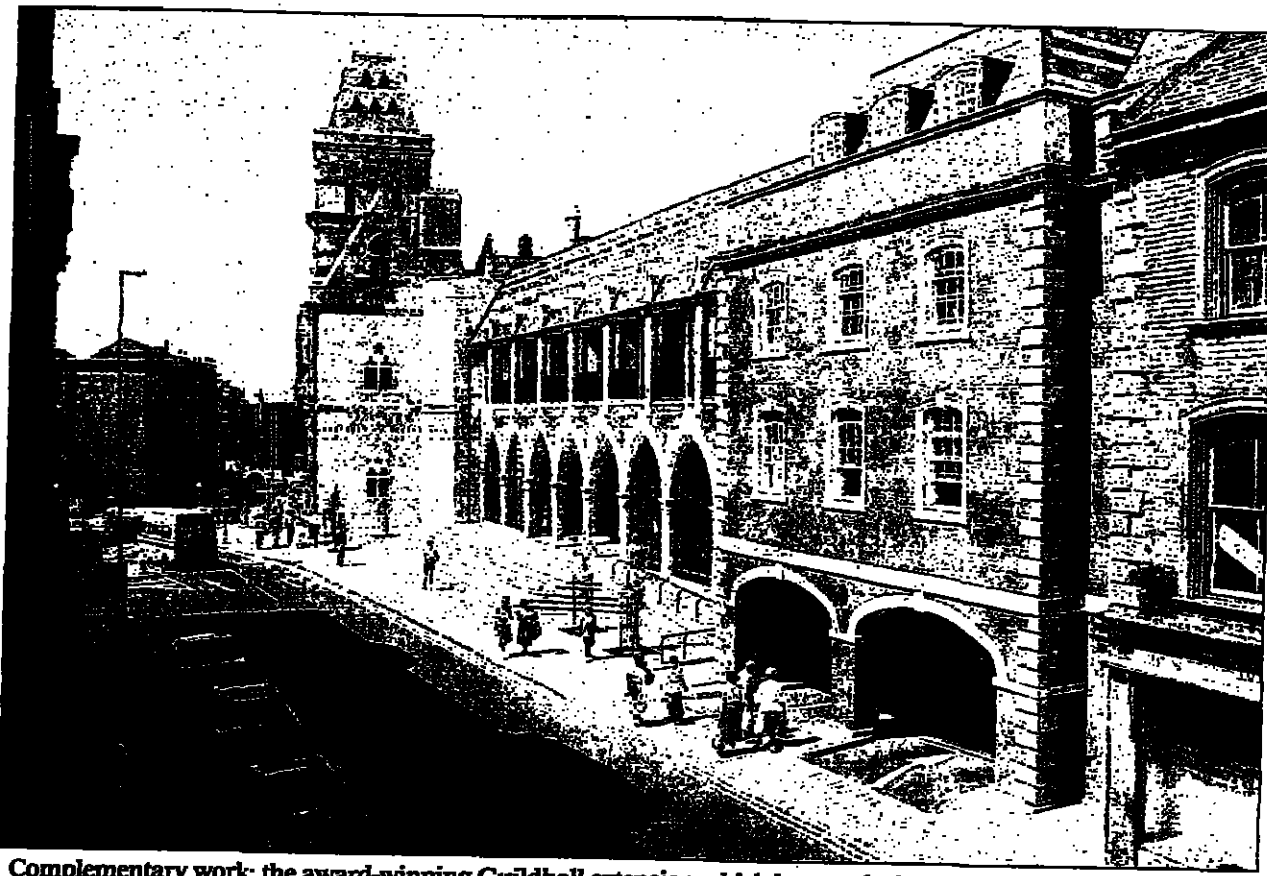


Center Parcs: natural beauty

shrubs were planted. These will eventually require thinning, but they have the additional advantage of providing protection for the taller, less sturdy, conifers and preventing wind damage.

The planting programme ensures a diversified forest which provides a wide range of habitats. Footpaths are designed to fit in with the existing landscape and trees and new lakes and waterways are developed to provide further diversity of wildlife habitats. The process continues after construction, with native grasses and plants used for groundcover — no manicured lawns here — and forest rangers ensure that the woodlands are maintained and refurbished with the old skills, such as coppicing, being used.

THE bank has won a premier award for its overall commitment to the environment and, in particular, the development of its new Brighton Business Centre.



Complementary work: the award-winning Guildhall extension which houses the Northampton Borough Council

NatWest drew up its policy after a two-year programme which reviewed six key areas: property and facilities management; office services and staff practices; paper, printing and plastic; transport and distribution; corporate policies and practices; and business activities.

When it came to examining the bank's property portfolio — it has more than 4,250 properties worldwide — it examined in detail construction materials and utility equipment specifications, health and safety, energy efficiency, water, and business and furniture waste.

The impetus for the policy has come right from the top. Derek Wanless, chief executive of NatWest, is a member of the board of the World Industry Council for the Environment, a member of the Government 1991-93 Advisory Committee of Business and the Environment and chairman of its financial sector working group.

Mr Wanless says: "Banking is not usually considered to have a major impact on the environment. However, banking and the environment meet in at least three ways. A bank impacts directly upon the environment through the management of its own operations, for example its premises, equipment and its resource and energy consumption. A bank's customers also have an impact. Increasingly companies are becoming aware of their environmental impact and are taking action to regulate it. Regardless of a company size, a bank needs to address the relatively new question of environmental risk assessment."

"The impact of new legislative requirements on business together with the ever-growing environmental awareness of the population at large, gives rise to new funding requirements to finance change as well as the scope for new products and services. We believe that banking is a business like any other to which the maxim 'Environmental Sense, Business Sense' applies."

AFTER spending several years examining potential sites for its corporate headquarters, it became clear that Conoco, a subsidiary of DuPont, had outgrown its London offices. A site in Warwick was chosen for its operations and its 700 staff, and Conoco embarked on a £27 million project to develop a new office in a rural setting.

Oil companies have always been at the forefront of environmental protection in their exploration and refining operations and the same strict

philosophy was applied to the Warwick development.

The layout of the site was designed to minimise inconvenience to the local community during construction, the internal design was drawn up to eliminate any risk of staff being affected by "sick-building syndrome", the building was designed in such a way that staff would develop a minimum-waste culture and the overall energy efficiency of the building was of paramount importance.

On the site, only 7.5 acres of the total 19 acres are occupied by the building and the layout has been designed so that all

parking is out of public view. Any deliveries to the site have to fit into a managed pattern so that there is the minimum disruption to local traffic.

Inside, CFC-free air conditioning was specified, the design made the best use of natural light, all work stations have been ergonomically designed and there are designated smoking rooms. In addition, recycling has been encouraged, with special recycling bins at every desk, there is a bottle bank in the car park and a segregated waste storage area in the basement. All waste movements off the site are carefully scheduled and

fully recorded. Energy efficiency is constantly monitored and the low-energy lighting system installed throughout the office is automatically adjusted by sensors. The office is double-glazed and the gas-fired heating system constantly monitored to achieve maximum efficiency.

## VAN DEN BERGH

THE award to Van den Bergh comes for its new refinery at Purfleet, Essex, producing edible oils — including the lowest cost margarine in Europe — which has cut its energy use by up to 70 per cent.

When the company decided two-and-a-half years ago to develop the most modern and largest refinery of its kind in the world, it involved the staff in the planning. Integral to its environmental awareness was the company's commitment to improving the working conditions and environment of employees, and a positive involvement and contribution by the staff was a key focus of the project.

The overall design of the site allowed the most efficient use of materials and energy, and this, coupled with technological advances made in recent years, means that edible oils can be refined there with minimal processing. Innovative techniques and designs applied to energy saving have led to reductions of up to 70 per cent in some of the processes.

The new refinery has also been extensively landscaped and the amount of solid waste that is produced in the process has been dramatically reduced. Gas waste has also come in for attention and is treated organically to reduce any pollution and smells from the plant.

## NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

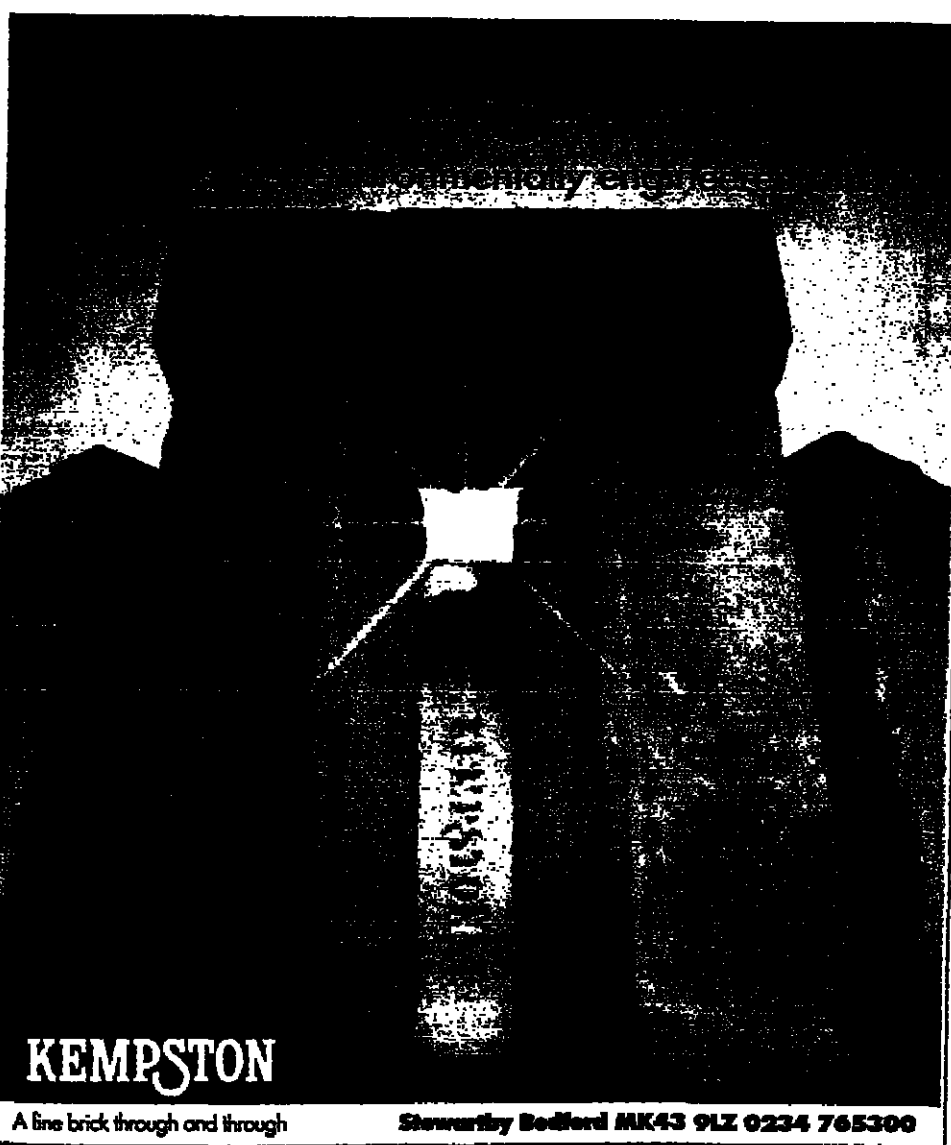
THE council has won its award for the imaginative grafting on of a new extension to its spectacular Victorian Gothic Guildhall. The development brings under one roof services which were spread over several sites, and also makes more accessible the ornate public rooms of the original building.

The new Guildhall extension and the parallel restoration and refurbishment of the Victorian building have already won awards and praise for the craftsmanship and use of natural stone in its design. This latest award recognises the contribution that the building makes to the overall environment of the bustling town centre.

Although a national competition was held to find an appropriate design for the extension to be built alongside the striking Gothic architecture of Edward Godwin, the winning design came from an architect based in the town, Stimpson Walton Bond. The main building contract also went to a county builder and the 260 tons of stone dressings and carving which highlight the building were the work of another county company.

The original building, opened in 1864 and built at a cost of £12,000 — compared with the cost of the restoration and extension of more than £9 million — had been the subject of a national design competition. The striking interiors of the public rooms have now been refurbished. They are available for hire for social functions, conferences and staff-training seminars.

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# Follow the green brick road

Once started, environmental projects seem to have a life of their own. Irene Farnsworth reports on companies which take pride in their imaginative schemes

## THE COMMENDATIONS

- Royal Mail North East
- B & Q
- SCM Chemicals
- Johnson Wax
- Welwyn Hatfield Council
- Cramlington Organisation for Nature and the Environment
- Wise Group
- Alcan Aluminium Can Recycling
- London Brick Company
- Project Consultancy Group
- Esso Petroleum
- Nuclear Electric
- PowerGen
- British Steel

The "Our Waste Their Resource" recycling project which won an award for Royal Mail North East (RMNE) led to other conservation measures once the staff got involved. Traditionally, hessian post bags were burnt, but the bags now go to Meanwood Valley Urban Farm in Leeds, a registered charity, where they are used as bedding for animals, dug into the earth, or sent to schools to be used in sack races.

Steve Potter, assistant energy manager and a member of RMNE's environmental team, says: "We are recruiting environmental wardens from each of our 200 offices because there is so much interest. The award will inspire everybody."

B & Q, Britain's largest DIY and garden centre retailer, launched a five-year environmental plan in 1990. By the end of last year, it had fulfilled one of its objectives — to buy timber from known sources only. B & Q, part of the Kingfisher group, is now working towards its ultimate goal of only stocking timber after 1995 which, in its harvesting, has not caused destruction or severe damage to a natural forest.

Dr Alan Knight, appointed by B & Q as environmental co-



Commended: (clockwise from top left) David Bellamy working with Cone Tree; Tree-wise maintenance; a building using Kempston brick; and Alcan collectors

ordinator in 1990, says: "Recognition helps us in two ways. It puts pressure on competitors to do what we are doing and puts demands on our suppliers to change."

SCM Chemicals is commended for its £14 million chloride process plant down river from Immingham, South Humberside. Nev Boast, in charge of SCM's environmental department, said that the new treatment process based on advances in chloride technology recycled waste instead of discharging it. There is still effluent, but it is much cleaner.

Johnson Wax, commended for its environmental policy, eliminated chlorofluorocarbons from its aerosols in the 1970s even before an American ban. In 1976 it expressed its environmental commitment in "This We Believe", a policy document on the S.C. Johnson business philosophy. In 1990,

the company produced an Environmental Mission Statement.

Simplicity and cost-effectiveness are the hallmarks of a district council's award-winning project. Welwyn Hatfield Council in Hertfordshire — "in business to care" — set

involvement in nature conservation is also being achieved by the Cramlington Organisation for Nature and the Environment (Cone) at Blyth Valley Borough Council in the North East. Cone, which gets an award, is "an active partnership between business,

been endorsed by leading environmentalists.

In Glasgow, the Wise Group's day-to-day activities in providing training and work experience for unemployed people, providing socially useful goods and services and working with local communities, have been singled out for a major commendation.

The Wise Group, which has charitable status, acts as an umbrella organisation for all group companies which include Heatwise Glasgow, providing home insulation; Landwise Glasgow, which carries out environmental improvements on neglected communal backyards; Tree-wise, which is creating urban forests in the housing estates of Glasgow; and Mervier, a commercial trading company providing glazing and merchandising services.

Job creation and cost-effectiveness enhance the success of British Alcan's performance in aluminium can recycling which has been recognised with a major commendation. Alcan Aluminium Can Recycling was launched in 1990 to recover as many as possible of the five billion aluminium drink cans in circulation in the UK each year. From an initial six collection centres it now has 19, and it helps a further 200-300 centres.

Life has changed from hell to heaven for 900 employees at British Steel's coke and iron works in Port Talbot, South Wales. This is the result of British Steel's award-winning £70 million rebuild of the blast furnace. Advanced technology, involving the use of the largest crane in Europe, enabled the old blast furnace to be rebuilt in 149 days. The rebuild has achieved higher productivity and improved quality while meeting the most stringent environmental standards. The cost of pollution control measures, including water recirculation and noise reduction equipment, was in excess of £12 million.

Complete restoration to a very high standard of a 17th-century warehouse and adjoining listed buildings has won an award for Project Consultancy Group, a multi-disciplinary firm specialising in surveying and design work. Buildings in Castlegate, Nottingham, were found specifically for the tenant, Browne Jacobson, a legal practice, and restored at a cost of £3 million. The group believed that, once someone started breathing new life into Castlegate, refurbishment of the whole area, desperately in need of regeneration, would take off. This has happened.

A vapour-recovery project gains an award for Esso Petroleum. This has been achieved by changing the method of loading trucks. Loading done at the top of the vehicle is now done at the bottom, so vapour can be taken away through pipes into a vapour recovery unit — essentially a fridge — chilled, converted back to liquid and returned to the tank.

"It is a win-win situation for everybody," Tom MacQuillan, an Esso spokesman, says. "It is justified on economic, environmental and safety grounds. The number of gallons recovered in 1993 was 1.1 million, enough to run the average family car for 3,300 years."

Vast amounts of water are needed to cool condensers at power stations. At Heysham, Lancashire, Nuclear Electric takes water in from the en-

trance of the harbour. With it came shoals of fish which got caught up on filter screens and died. Now fish are being deterred by a vertical curtain of bubbles coming up from the sea bed.

"It is environmentally friendly and extremely cost-effective," Dr Peter Nolan, Nuclear Electric's environmental initiatives officer, says. Heysham generates enough electricity a day to supply 2.25 million people in the North West. Side by side with the two power stations is a nature reserve with a high density of butterflies and wildlife. Heysham was chosen to illustrate certain aspects of the company's environmental performance, but the award is for Nuclear Electric's regard for the environment in all its activities.

PowerGen gets a major commendation for its nature study centre at Kingsnorth Power Station on the Medway Estuary, Kent. Two cottages standing in ten acres of countryside were converted to give a base for detailed study. Two ponds have been constructed so that freshwater life as well as marine life can be studied.

The popular centre, which won the "community relations" category of the 1992 Industry in Kent Environment Awards, has strengthened links between PowerGen and local authority councils.

Life has changed from hell to heaven for 900 employees at British Steel's coke and iron works in Port Talbot, South Wales. This is the result of British Steel's award-winning £70 million rebuild of the blast furnace. Advanced technology, involving the use of the largest crane in Europe, enabled the old blast furnace to be rebuilt in 149 days. The rebuild has achieved higher productivity and improved quality while meeting the most stringent environmental standards. The cost of pollution control measures, including water recirculation and noise reduction equipment, was in excess of £12 million.

## The popular go-between

Groundwork spreads the message of environmental improvement

Groundwork is a successful non-campaigning, non-lobbying environmental group set up 11 years ago. Backed by public and private-sector money, its task is to improve the environment by acting as a go-between for industrial and non-industrial interests.

The main body is the Groundwork Foundation, which co-ordinates 35 independent locally based trusts all over the United Kingdom. Its target is to increase the trusts to 55 by the middle of next year. The foundation has support from big business, but one of its main objectives is to foster grassroots backing.

Dr Robin Henshaw is executive director of the Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside Trust in Lancashire and awards secretary for the Business Commitment to the Environment. He believes that what may start as a national, compartmentalised and geographical directive does not translate on a local level. "Say we home in on a town and set up a comprehensive environmental programme. It will involve a lot of people — staff, volunteers, landowners, housing estates, schools, local authorities and the private sector. It is then that it gets fairly complex."

"The project is made up of many people living in the area, for example, people at the golf club whose children are at the school. Everyone becomes entwined. That is our strength. Groundwork brings together the best of both worlds — a national presence and a good local presence where business also fits in."

Groundwork aims to help small and medium businesses improve their environmental outlook and it targets places most in need of upgrading.

Dr Henshaw, who has a full-time staff of 35 in his trust and 15 unemployed graduates learning the business, says: "We make deci-

sions on how surroundings can be enhanced. We provide an honest-broker service. Sometimes, a situation needs an intermediary to make progress."

In his area, for example, a chemical factory wanted to expand its site on derelict land right in the centre of town. The local community was obviously concerned about the development.

Groundwork brought the parties together and helped bring about an amicable solution. The company built its extension on land away from the town centre which gave it a better entrance and approach and improved its access. The town got a new park on the derelict land.

Groundwork is about helping small and medium companies fit more easily into the community's environment. It also helps to keep them up to date with never-ending legislation.

"Information about government national environmental programmes, policies and experience techniques is sent down the line so that people know what is happening. We go to the companies who need to know and cannot find out."

"Sometimes firms need a lot of hand-holding and that is our job. The typical small and medium-sized companies have not got the time — and often the inclination — to go to conferences. They need a great deal of persuasion to find out."

Groundwork runs training schemes to get more people out advising and helping spread the message of improvement.

"The most important thing is to get things happening," Dr Henshaw says. "Our raison d'être is to get the environment improved and involve the community rather than complaining about big issues."

DAVID THURLOW  
The Groundwork Foundation can be contacted on 021-236 8365.

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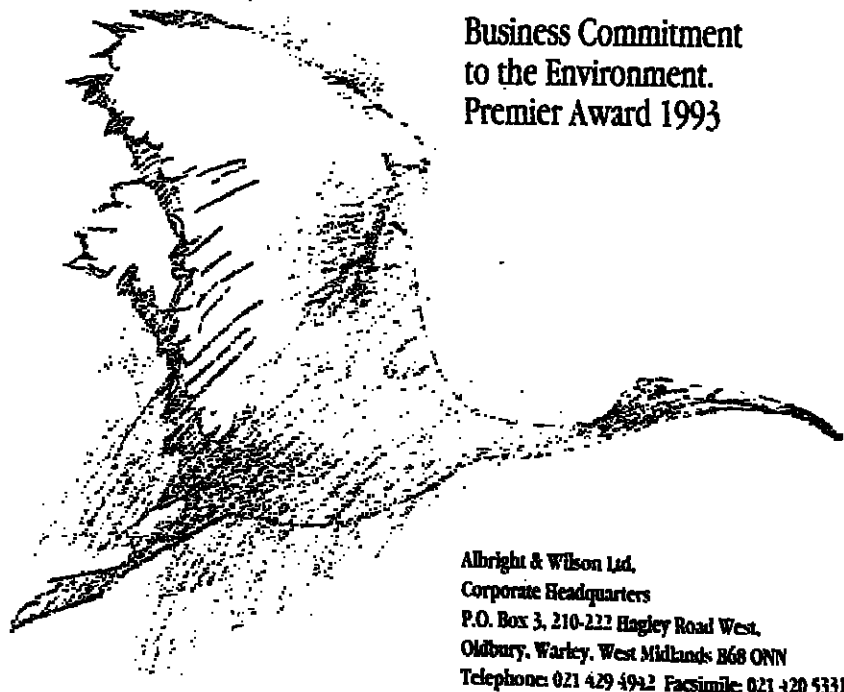
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**DANCE page 36**  
Queen of flamenco:  
Cristina Hoyos begins  
her Spanish season  
at Sadler's Wells

# ARTS

**FILM page 37**

Bruce Joel Rubin, the  
Oscar-winning  
screenwriter, talks about  
directing his first movie



## American accent on passion

The director Richard Eyre tells Matt Wolf how an early love of American drama kindled his lasting enthusiasm for theatre.

The rumour mill is churning away outside the Royal National Theatre one recent morning with press speculation that Richard Eyre will step down in 1996. But inside the building the 51-year-old artistic director continues doing what he does best: directing plays.

In his 13-year association with the National, Eyre has had particular success with American works, placing the musical firmly on the subsidised theatre map with *Gypsy* and *Dolls* in 1982 and, more recently, restoring *The Night of the Iguana* to its rightful place at the centre of the Tennessee Williams canon, with his careful and wise production. Significantly, Eyre's one freelance assignment since taking over in 1981 at the National was last year's highly acclaimed BBC version of Williams's *Suddenly Last Summer* with Maggie Smith and Natasha Richardson.

This month Eyre embarks upon what might be seen as his own American season. He is currently preparing the British premiere of *Johnny on a Spot*, a little-known 1942 comedy by Charles MacArthur, best remembered as one half (with Ben Hecht) of the team who wrote *The Front Page*. In June Eyre returns to Williams with the first London staging of *Sweet Bird of Youth* since Harold Pinter's West End production, starring Lauren Bacall, in 1965. Next year Eyre directs *Pul Joo*, the third musical, following *Carousel* and *Sweeney Todd*, to be presented at the National as part of a special grant from Cameron Mackintosh.

A cynical play to snare American tourists? Hardly, says Eyre: "I don't second-guess an audience in that sense at all. I'm not sure Americans would be attracted by an American content in the repertoire; in fact, possibly the opposite." The line-up, instead, illustrates the director's affinity with a culture he was first drawn to as an adolescent in Dorset.

I grew up reading Marvel comics, watching American TV — *Bilko*, *I Love Lucy*, the *Burns and Allen Show* — and, from when I was about 12, listening to rock music and then jazz. His theatrical education was no less formed abroad. "After Miller and Williams in particular, the British stuff seemed incredibly

bloodless. So when *Look Back in Anger* came along and I was reading that at last the British theatre has fangs, I thought, 'Hang on, we've already had *The Rose Tattoo*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *Death of a Salesman*.' It struck me how hermetically isolated the theatre was in Britain. I fell in love with American theatre before I fell in love with theatre as a whole."

Under Eyre's regime, the National has been generous to American work in ways that go beyond his own productions. From *After the Fall* to *Machinal*, American plays have received healthily controversial stagings unlikely to have been attempted elsewhere, as for *Angels in America*, Tony Kushner's epic play would never have got to Broadway if Declan Donnellan's 1992 staging of its first part, *Millennium Approaches*, had not stirred international interest in the work. (Its second half, *Perestroika*, is one of three American plays to receive Olivier nominations as the year's best.)

Eyre's National Theatre predecessor, Sir Peter Hall, was often derided for including in the repertoire plays like Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, which helped to earn the theatre the nickname Broadway-upon-Thames. Eyre has avoided that trap both by turning down Broadway hits — John Guare's *Six Degrees of Separation* and Wendy Wasserstein's *The Sisters Rosensweig* — or, in the case of *Carousel*, assuring a Broadway classic is revealed anew. He can also provide a home for American theatre practitioners from outside the mainstream, as occurs later this year when director and performance artist Martha Clarke makes her National Theatre debut staging Christopher Harpington's *Alice*, based on Lewis Carroll. In August Eyre hosts the British premiere of Arthur Miller's next play, *Broken Glass*, to be directed by long-time Miller associate, David Thacker.

And what of the rest of the world repertoire? Eyre warns of running "a theatre as public library, staging a play as you might buy a volume because it's a worthy addition to the catalogue. You've got to re-create plays written in other languages; you can't just render them into English. I'm often astonished at the laudatory things I read about the-



Richard Eyre: in his 13-year association with the National Theatre, the director has enjoyed particular success with American works

atre events that seem to me completely inert because the language has not been reinvented; it's in some strange translation-ese.

"You have to ask, does the world need another *Doll's House*, another *Hedda*?" continues Eyre, who points out that the forthcoming repertoire also includes plays by Corneille (*El Cid*), Schiller (*Don Carlos*) and De Filippo (the little-known 1951 *Grande Magia*). "On the other hand, can you do the lesser-known European works that a critic is craving to see? He may hunger for them, and a thousand other people may, but will the 60,000 people we need to carry a run? A commercial

assessment has to be made."

That assessment was crucial to *Johnny on a Spot* which, Eyre says, makes a fitting comic companion to his own production of David Hare's *The Absence of War*. "The logical thing to carry through the summer was a popular comedy with a bit of asynchrony: you've got David's play about a British election, and, with *Johnny*, a satirical comedy — fantastically black and Orton-esque — about an American election."

Eyre's American focus relates to his National Theatre tenure inasmuch as he is aware of the freelance life he could be leading. Film producer Scott Rudin (*Addams*

*Family Values*) offers Eyre a script, he says, "every few months, and they're usually rather good". Broadway, too, has beckoned with various musicals, presenting Eyre with "a Faustian contract period. How can you say it's not tempting to have the potential to make several million pounds? It's just a question of what matters more."

Eyre's present schedule answers that question, since he refuses to be an absentee landlord. "The more you put into a theatre, the more people feel your absence, and you can't on the one hand say I demand your loyalty and your commitment and then be seen to have a double

standard. All I would say categorically is there's no way I would go beyond 1998 in this job because that's ten years and somebody else should have a go."

For the moment, though, he says, "the only way I know how to run this theatre is being in the shop and virtually living above it. There are times when I feel this is just so exhausting, so stressful, but there's no way I can burrow to freedom; and there are times, of course, when I know it's an incredibly privileged role."

*Johnny on a Spot* opens at the National on March 31; *Sweet Bird of Youth* opens on June 16

### ARTS BRIEFING

#### Roman empire

BEN Kingsley, Stuart Wilson and Sigourney Weaver have finally been confirmed as the cast of Roman Polanski's film *Death and the Maiden*, which starts shooting in England this spring. Casting the screen adaptation of Ariel Dorfman's acclaimed play has involved more twists than the play itself. At one point Judy Davis, Liam Neeson and Stephen Rea were announced to star; then Weaver was brought in to play opposite Jeremy Irons and either Michael Gambon or Alan Rickman.

One person not in the final running, however, was Glenn Close. She is said to have been happy to leave the part of a torture victim behind, despite winning a Tony Award for her performance in the play on Broadway.

LORD Attenborough has been made a trustee of the Tate Gallery. The appointment is timely: he is a particular fan of Picasso, the exhibition of whose work is currently breaking all records at the Tate. Attenborough knew Picasso as a younger man and owns some Vallauris ceramics. His wife, Lady Attenborough, was given a ceramic pendant by the artist, which she proudly wore at the exhibition opening.

#### Frank stuff

ENVELOPES are clearly not what they were. On auction at Christie's tomorrow will be numerous examples of "propaganda envelopes" specially printed for political causes in the 19th century. One series, satirising Gladstone, shows pictures of him cutting off Disraeli's tongue and beheading Queen Victoria in revenge for her disapproval of him.

As part of a campaign against censorship in 1844, one envelope carries the sarcastic message: "If this letter be OPENED at the General Post Office, the writer will be glad to have it forwarded the next day." But another envelope would be sadly out of place today: it shows the Devil emptying a post-bag into a church and makes the appeal: "Answer no letters delivered on Sunday."

RICHARD Wilson, whose lugubrious Victor Meldrew of BBC's *One Foot in the Grave* must have been one of the most unlikely cult figures of 1993, is to make his West End stage debut in Michael Palin's first full-length play, *The Weekend*. He opens in preview with Angela Thorne, another sitcom veteran, at the Strand Theatre on April 26 for an 11-week season.

Stephen Pettitt on the august past and uncertain future of one of music's great institutions, the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra

Next month the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, by most definitions the world's oldest, continues celebrations of its 250th anniversary with a European tour, sponsored by Kenwood and visiting London (April 22), Birmingham (April 23) and Cardiff (April 25).

This venerable institution evolved from the collegium musicum founded by Telemann in 1720 and taken over by Bach in 1729. But this is no moribund organisation resting on its laurels.

Since 1970 the Gewandhauskapellmeister, as the music director is still officially called, has been the affable Kurt Masur, recently thrust to wider stardom as the popular music director of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, a surprising but astute appointment. Masur is acutely aware of the responsibility of upholding a tradition that has thrived since Bach's day. Among his predecessors are figures such as Mendelssohn, Nikisch, Furtwängler and Walter.

Has the thought ever crossed his mind that he had been in the post long enough now? "I would like to stay only until that moment when we all feel, together, that this orchestra is safe, when nothing will be destroyed of this great tradition. But this is not the case at the moment."

In Leipzig, as everywhere, there are money problems. Set against the conditions in which British orchestras are forced to function, they hardly

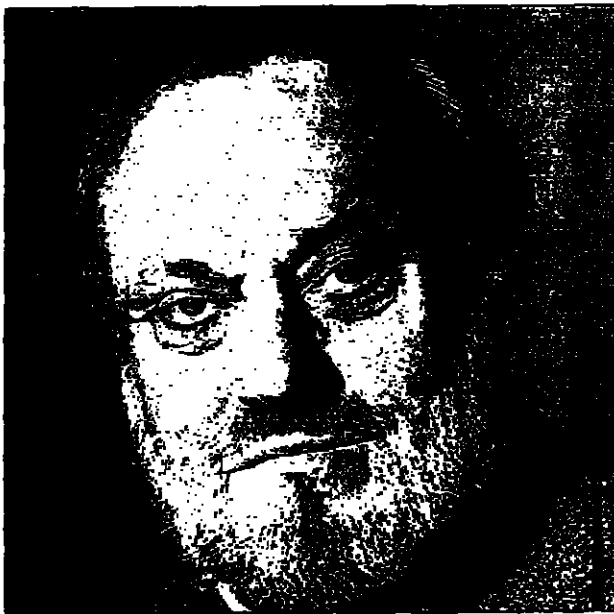
## A sound tradition of excellence

look severe, but one has to remember that the Gewandhaus's two hundred or so musicians provide the orchestra for the opera as well as the concert hall. (Members of the orchestra play for another enduring institution, the Thomaschor, in its weekly performances of Bach cantatas.)

But if the orchestra was secure? "If tomorrow Simon Rattle decided to come to Leipzig, I would say 'OK, it's yours.' Look, I didn't have it in mind to go to New York at the end of my life. I wanted to stay here as long as the orchestra needed me, and then to be a freelance conductor and let some young guy take over."

Unification scuppered that masterplan, so it became a question of principle. "Either I could be selfish and say 'let me go'. Or I could say 'this is the most important position of my life: will I let the orchestra go down, or will I give it a steadiness so that everybody feels it must go on?'"

Masur plunged himself into the political headlines in October 1989, when along with five other local artists and politicians he urged a free exchange of views on the future of socialism in the former German Democratic Republic. He also appeared at the decisive



Masur: successor to Mendelssohn and Furtwängler

demonstration in Augustus Square, on two sides of which sit the opera house and the savagely modernistic Neue Gewandhaus which finally replaced the fine old hall, destroyed by Allied bombs, in 1981 as a result of Masur's personal appeal to Erich Honecker.

Masur does not like to talk too much about that now. Indeed, though one player told me chilling tales of Stasi informants within the orches-

tra, the Kapellmeister denies that unification had any disruptive effect. Nobody was lured to the better-paid orchestras of Cologne or Munich. "They felt at home here. Our members never feel they just have a job. They have more than that."

Indeed, continuity and devotion are bywords here. Eighty-five per cent of the Gewandhaus musicians are graduates from the Leipzig Musikhochschule. "The sound

and the family feeling are unique. You sometimes can have a mastery orchestra but the players are frustrated because they're not the soloist. But we try also to give a lot of opportunities for chamber music. There are three chamber orchestras and a brass group for instance, so that helps give them a certain feeling of independence. Also this model of connection with the conservatory has a very strong influence upon the style of the orchestra. We're starting to do the same thing in New York."

But the Gewandhaus players' jobs are no longer quite as secure. Masur proposes to cut the playing staff to 185 at the end of this year. Does he think that a lack of security means less likelihood of descent into routine performances? "No. If the drive comes from fear, music-making can be more perfect but not more human."

There was evidence of a warm, devoted and spontaneous musicianship in the concert I heard which celebrated the 125th anniversary of the Gewandhaus Choir. It included Mendelssohn's *Die erste Walpurgisnacht*, whose revised version was given its world premiere in 1843 in this city by the Gewandhaus Orchestra. The choir's sturdy, positive singing was supplemented by the equally good

Gewandhaus Youth Choir, with Annette Markert, Hans Peter Blochwitz, Siegfried Lorenz and Hermann Christian Polster the four soloists. Also on the programme was Liszt's *Dante Symphony*, which Masur, his orchestra, and the Gewandhaus Children's Choir gave with coherence, drama, affection and, in the Magnificat setting at the end of "Purgatorio", a touchingly genuine piety.

Against all odds this grey, polluted city's rich musical heritage is intact, though had more of the lovely old architecture survived the war this would still be a musical capital to rival Vienna. Masur is doing his best. In 1991, under his chairmanship, the International Mendelssohn Foundation was born, and on the morning after I arrived a 150,000 DM sponsorship deal with the Deutsches Bundesbank was announced to help with the restoration of Mendelssohn's house, a project near to Masur's heart.

This is a very different orchestra from that of New York, and the Americans' extrovert playing has often led to some unfavourable comparisons. Yet when it is on song the Leipzig Orchestra is a lovely instrument. Perhaps the woodwinds do not play with

the refinement of a London orchestra, but there is a directness and honesty about this music-making which suits the central Germanic repertoire it plays perfectly.

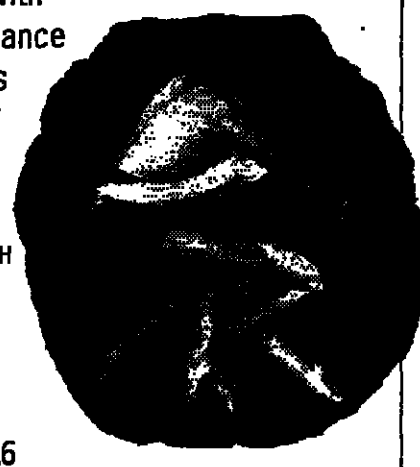
Undoubtedly that has much to do with Masur's relationship. "Some of these players are very close to me. It is an understanding. I work with them as a kind of friend, a *primus inter pares*. We feel the same about music."

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# Coming soon – Australian spirit on tap

Robert Cockburn talks to people in and behind the next big antipodean thing to hit London, the all-singing, all-dancing *Hot Shoe Shuffle*

Another Perth audience streams out of His Majesty's Theatre into the sultry West Australian night. Inside, the next wave of London-bound talent dreams of the stage success there of *Neighbours* stars Jason Donovan and Scott Mitchellson, and keeps singing and tap-dancing for dear life.

The nervous young cast of *Hot Shoe Shuffle* wait for two of the theatre world's most powerful figures to judge their exhausting hours' preparations to take Australia's first big musical to London. Fresh off a late flight via Singapore, and the opening night there of *Les Misérables*, Helen Montague, the veteran West End producer, arrives back in her native Australia for her latest – and some would say riskiest – project yet. To everyone's astonishment, the original dancers and their home-grown show have gone from near-disastrous beginnings in a suburban council hall in Sydney to opening in the West End on March 22.

Montague discovered *Hot Shoe Shuffle* deep in the Australian urban sprawl, a place local snobs despise as a social and cultural desert. Montague found it otherwise.

"I was a bit blown away," she says. "I went to see the show in the outer suburbs of Sydney, and I thought: 'My God, people have got to see this.' They're such nice ordinary boys, and the passion they've got for dancing excites me."

The story behind a bunch of young unknowns suddenly ending up in the West End is the kind of fairytale that leaves their own show's story for dead. But plot is superfluous to a performance of raw energy and old-time talent that Australians have flocked to see.

Initially, the cast set out to satisfy a passion to dance innovative black American tap routines hardly seen on stage since the 1930s. They, and the routines, nearly went back into obscurity. Montague arrived just in time to see them at Sydney's Castle Hill municipal hall before the local council closed the show prematurely, leaving its producer, creator and male lead, David Atkins, facing ruin.

"We had a seven-week run," Atkins says. "Then the council pulled out. I was in deep trouble: a wife and two boys to care for and I'd mortgaged my house twice for the show."

Atkins kept the cast together until he had secured a highly successful Melbourne venue which was the beginning of a national tour. The tour ended in Perth, and then began the task of reworking the script and musical arrangements so they could take up Montague's offer of London.

“We have created a monster here – this is the revenge tour”

Within a year, *Hot Shoe Shuffle* has become an Australian icon, gaining personal support from the Prime Minister, Paul Keating, to take on the Brits on their own stage. "I wish David Atkins and his talented team a long and successful run in London. Break a leg!" Keating wrote. Given the physical danger of some of the routines, the last phrase was perhaps a little near the bone.

The show, set in 1940s America, concerns the seven Tap brothers. Down on their luck, they are called to hear their long-lost father's will. But getting this unexpected fortune depends on first performing his old tap routine, with their unknown sister who can't dance to save her life. This is a shame because it means waiting until the end to see Rhonda Burchmore, the show's only female and a superb dancer, let rip in a crescendo of 1930s and 1940s standards, complete with big band.

An unnecessarily complicated plot by Sydney writers Larry Butrose and Kathryn Riding has probably made *Hot Shoe* the first ever musical not to come up with a romantic angle. Still trying to cut the script, Montague says: "It would be hard to think of the world's most deep and meaningful story told in tap. But the dancing is passionate, tribal, and touches something in the emotions."

The show works best as a showcase of mesmerising skills, individually and together, such as dancing furiously on an old tap-truck. Such things were not allowed in the rigid production of 42nd Street in which dancers Dein Perry, Christopher Horsey and Sheldon Perry played in Australia.



Leaning over backwards to pay homage to the long-forgotten artists of tap, the cast of *Hot Shoe Shuffle* also see themselves as cultural ambassadors for Australia

They know the chance to dance like this professionally may never come again. "It's what we've trained all our lives for," Horsey says. "People who tap-dance are coming to see the show and they can't believe people like us still have the skills."

Their inspiration comes from black American artists like the Nicholas Brothers and Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, who went virtually unseen while their work inspired the white stars of Hollywood's extravaganzas.

"It was blatant racism that kept them from being seen," Dein Perry says. "We've created a monster here – this is the revenge tour." A sense of revenge on behalf of their forgotten American dance heroes,

and a sense of revenge against the old colonial master, Australian independence somehow still needs to be validated in London.

The cast's other Perth visitor is Janet Holmes & Court, widow of tycoon Robert, Australia's richest woman and owner of 13 Stoll Moss theatres in the West End. One of them, Queen's, will be staging *Hot Shoe Shuffle*. She has a strong personal motive for seeing an Australian show succeed in London. "I'm rather tired of the Les Patterson image that English people have of Australians. It makes them feel really good to think that Australians are all like him. I think it satisfies the English sense of superiority if they think we are all crass colonials."

In Perth, Holmes & Court is much better known as a supporter of Aboriginal rights. A former school teacher, she is chairman of the city's radical Black Swan Theatre, along with Australia's most prominent black writer Jack Davis, and has a practical, earthy nature that sees her cleaning out the lavatories before productions.

Holmes & Court feels she is unjustly criticised in London for her management of the 13 Stoll Moss theatres she inherited. She defends a recent attack by Tom Conti about Stoll Moss theatre conditions, pointing to the £10-£12 million spent on a refurbishment programme of Her Majesty's, the Palladium and others.

Plans to broaden the range of the

theatres include turning the Duchess into an experimental venue. But, while pleased to have provided the stage for Steven Berkoff's new one-man show, she confesses to not really liking it much and of sometimes forgetting the great man's first name.

She goes to a different play every night when in London, secretly preferring the serious stuff to musicals. "The night *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* opened at the Palladium, Nigel Kennedy was playing Brahms's Violin Concerto at the Albert Hall and I sat in the Palladium thinking: 'Oh my God, why am I here when I could be over there?'"

"When I told Paul Keating he

made me sit down between two speakers and played me a Yehudi Menuhin performance recorded in about 1958, and said: 'Forget Nigel Kennedy, this is the ultimate performance of Brahms.'"

After seeing her all-singing, all-dancing baby perform in Perth, Holmes & Court flew off to inspect her cattle stations spread across Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland. "Fifteen million acres," she says. "The size of Scotland."

The Australians are coming, shepherded by two of the biggest drivers in the business. They could start a stampede.

Hot Shoe Shuffle previews at the Queens Theatre (071-494 5041) from March 16 and opens on March 22

## Knight of the living dead

The afterlife has been good for scriptwriter turned film director Bruce Joel Rubin, whose latest study of mortality opens this week

For a man who rehearsed his Oscar acceptance speech at the age of 12 and delivered it 36 years later, Bruce Joel Rubin is surprisingly un-Hollywood. And even though he physically resembles a slimmed-down composite of Robert Altman and Francis Ford Coppola, his meditative, hushed tones conjure up the image of an ascetic. This, though, is not surprising when one discovers that he lived in a Tibetan monastery for a time, sharing a room with an 80-year-old monk.

However, Rubin, who is 51 this month, has been bobbing around on the edges of show business since he attended New York University film school in 1962. While such classmates as Martin Scorsese, Brian De Palma and

Jim McBride went on to carve their directorial mark almost immediately, Rubin bided his time. But then, for him, filmmaking is only one part of his life's vocation.

"I feel I have this incredibly privileged opportunity to talk to the world for two hours," he says. "And it's too important an opportunity to abuse. What I try to do as a filmmaker is throw out some questions so that people come out of the theatre thinking about things that they might not otherwise have considered."

Of the seven screenplays that Rubin has written, five reflect his fascination with death, the afterlife and everything else in between. *Jacob's Ladder* in particular was a harrowing and brilliant contemplation of the undead,



Ghost made Bruce Joel Rubin a Hollywood heavyweight, but he shunned the sequel

although Rubin's supernatural trump card was not played until the end. Even his gun-for-hire work on Wes Craven's B-movie *Deadly Friend* was the story of a teenager who resurrected his dead girlfriend. And it was his screenplay for *Ghost* that won Rubin an Oscar in 1991.

He has now completed his first film as director and is back in the thick of the metaphysical. *My Life*, an unapologetic romantic drama, is the story of Bob Jones (Michael Keaton), a successful PR man and imminent father dying of cancer.

Realising that his child will never know him, Jones sets about making a home video for the infant, only to discover that he cannot remember his childhood.

And so Jones embarks on a quest to discover his past, dropping in on former friends, visiting his family in Detroit and opening old wounds that he believed had healed. And, most significantly, he consults a Chinese healer who tells him that it is his inner anger that is feeding the cancer.

Interestingly, Rubin shares a number of factors with his protagonist. Both were born in Detroit and relocated to Los Angeles. Both share a rejection of their roots. And, like Jones, Rubin contemplated making a video for his offspring in the face of death.

"I woke up in the middle of

the night with a terrible stomach-ache," he says. "Being prone to drama, I immediately decided that this was it. As I lay there preparing to die, I wondered what I could leave my two young boys to remember me by. So I decided to make a videotape. And I started to think what I would say, what philosophies I

"I had this great urge to communicate, but I had nothing to say"

would impart, what stories to tell... But the more I got into it, the more I thought it would make an interesting film. Suddenly, dying was no longer the issue, the movie was."

Where the writer and his character part company is that Rubin found his inner peace early on. After directing a couple of shorts at NYU, Rubin undertook a voyage of self-discovery.

"I had this great urge to communicate, but I had nothing to say," he says. "So I started this journey, hitchhiking from Europe through to India and ending up in Japan. And I began to witness the

continuity of cultures and beliefs, to see beyond what separates us."

Jewish by birth, Rubin culled the most pertinent aspects of the religions he encountered and established his own doctrine, which now informs his work. Today, he believes in a universal self ("When you talk to yourself and when I talk to myself, we are conversing with the same entity") and believes in life after death.

But when the conversation drifts to the firmer ground of *Ghost* and its impending sequel, Rubin snaps back into the role of Hollywood man. "You're the second person to tell me a sequel is in the works," he says. "Tom Cruise mentioned it the other day."

Thus stirred, he pursues the issue. "It's very painful. Everything I wanted to say about the subject was said in *Ghost*. I have, of course, refused to have anything to do with the sequel."

But anything that grosses more than \$200 million has a lot more to say in the land of the fast buck, with or without Rubin's consent. Sighing, he adds: "How would Shakespeare have felt if they got the writer of *Demolition Man* to script *Hamlet*?"

JAMES CAMERON-WILSON  
My Life opens across the country on Friday

## RADIO: A station in search of an identity

### Who will find Five alive?

Naturally enough, we start with a television programme. On Sunday Mary Goldring occupied an hour on Channel 4 with an audit of the BBC, in which she suggested that BBC radio cost too much for the listeners it attracted. In particular, she said there was a case for killing off Radio 3.

As yet there is no sign of Goldring having to move to a secret address, which is curious considering the belief that the Radio 3 audience will issue a fatwa at the sight of a dissident. The reaction, or lack of it, only confirms my view that there was never much of a Radio 3 lobby, only a *Test Match Special* lobby.

Which brings me to Radio 5, which turns into Radio 5 Live on March 28. Radio 5 was launched, with no small credit to the aforementioned TMS moosters, with the partial aim of putting sport in its place (all on one wavelength), and to be a home for educational programmes and "innovative" youth broadcasting.

Result: failure. Straw polls are convenient in that they will cheerfully reinforce prejudices, but the fact is that when I asked a dozen people what they thought Radio 5 was, only two knew the answer, four thought it was all sport, two thought it was a classical music network and four had never heard of it. Radio 5 has either no image or the wrong one, which makes it about as image-disadvantaged as it is possible to get.

So Radio 5 is to be scrapped. Enter... Radio 5 Live, a whole new round-the-clock broadcasting game consisting entirely of news and, er, sport. And the problem for the new Radio 5 is that it starts with all the image disadvantages of the old one. The network is a compromise. The BBC wanted rolling news on Radio 4 longwave but had to retreat before an advancing army of Britanny Brits who claimed they would all die of drink even more quickly without a daily fix from across the water on 198 kHz.

This dilemma dovetailed with the cricket versus concert punch-up occupying the Radio 3 audience (supposedly),

which had partly motivated the invention of Radio 5 in the first place. Clearly, with BBC execs mostly preoccupied playing Hunt the New Charter with the Government, a two-phase quick fix under which sport moved to Radio 5 and then Radio 5 moved to news and sport would satisfy everybody. Or not dissatisfy everybody very much.

The gambit has worked in that respect, which shows that only a fool thinks the BBC is run by fools. And if the BBC insisted on having a news network, it was only logical to fill up with sport, thus reducing the number of times per day we would have to hear retired air vice-marshals explaining how to bomb a Serb.

I all makes perfect sense, but will it work? And if it does, how will they know? Radio audiences are hopelessly difficult to measure, largely because the number listening in cars can only be guessed at. Hence the argument by Radio 5 insiders that the existing network has done much better in its four years than the powers that be think.

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## South Africa one up in series

## Border concedes that Australia were second best

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN JOHANNESBURG

AFTER South Africa had beaten Australia by 193 runs in the first Test match here yesterday, Allan Border admitted that for the last four days of the game Australia had been outplayed by what he described as "a very good, competitive side".

Although South Africa won in the end by a wide margin of runs and with all the evening's play to spare, the closing stages of the match were as fraught as any.

There had been a confident forecast of afternoon thunderstorms and lightning lit the distant sky as Hughes and May, Australia's last wicket pair, held out for 66 minutes.

As tea approached, it began to rain just enough for the players to go off and the covers to come on. Mercifully, in the interests of justice, it came to nothing, and within moments of the resumption May had been caught at short leg off Cronje. "I managed to talk myself into a bowl," Cronje, whose third ball, at medium pace, did the trick, said.

South Africa have now won seven of their last eight Test matches against Australia in South Africa. The other was drawn. Of the last 18 Tests between the two, here and in Australia, they have, in fact, won ten to Australia's three. Because of South Africa's isolation, this goes back to 1963, but it is, nonetheless, a remarkable record.

Australia's grumpiness this time was in sharp contrast to South Africa's disciplined display. In extension of the behaviour of Hughes and Warne, Border said that they had been provoked while fielding on the boundary. But he knew it was a lame excuse and, as Wessels said, there is no place on earth like Australia for taking flak from the home supporters. Concerned by what they have heard and read and seen on television, it

is thought that the Australian board is preparing to weigh in with its own rebuke.

Any chance Australia may have had of winning virtually disappeared in the fifth over yesterday when Mark Waugh was drawn forward just outside the off stump by Donald and caught at the wicket. Throughout the match, South Africa's faster bowlers bowled a fuller, more practical length than Australia's. Indeed, it is rare these days to find a fast bowler who pitches the ball so consistently far up as De

Kirsten. As in Australia's first innings, Border was batting very well when he mistimed a hook off McMillan, the ball skying away on the leg side.

Kirsten ran from backward short leg and dived full stretch for the ball which had come from behind him. It was a miracle how he held on to it. Steve Waugh's Test average in his last 19 innings, batting at No 6, was 85 when he took guard. Now he was out first ball, caught low down at the wicket off quite a considerable outswinger from Matthews.

Matthews then bowled Boon, who had batted solidly and well for 4½ hours. Mad-deningly for the young bloods who are queuing up to bat for Australia, Boon continues to earn his keep, at No 3, and at short leg.

Healy had to be dealt with yet, and Donald's slower ball did that. Warne, who will want to forget his visits to Johannesburg (he was heavily punished in the one-day international here), came and went to loud reproach, and McDermott took a slog.

With a single reservation, one hailed South Africa's success. It was achieved, regrettably, without spin on a pitch to gladden a good spinner's heart. By the end the bounce was just sufficiently uneven to tilt the balance in favour of even an unbalanced attack.

Wessels later warned against complacency for the remainder of the three-match series. After singling out Hansie Cronje for his "superb contribution", Wessels said: "The Australians are a very professional outfit and I expect them to bounce back in the next Test in Cape Town."

Border had no complaints about the defeat. "We were totally outplayed and you've got to accept that. I thought we performed very well on day one, but a Test is over five days," he said.

Villiers. When, later in the day, South Africa were striving desperately to finish Australia off, he must twice, if not three times, have been within a whisker of having Hughes leg-before with yorkers. Each time it was the South African umpire who gave Hughes in.

Border said that had Australia kept out of trouble in the morning they were hoping to make a dash for the 450 they needed for victory. But by lunch he, Steve Waugh and Boon were also out. Border to a wonderful catch by Gary



Mark Waugh flattered to deceive with this rasping cut for four off Donald for he was out soon afterwards

## Women's crew breezes round the Horn

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL AT CAPE HORN

THE gods finally smiled on Dawn Riley and her all-women crew aboard *Heineken* by blessing their rounding of Cape Horn in the Whitbread Round the World Race with a timely change of wind early yesterday.

"We've had our share of problems on this leg, but we are hanging in there. We can't wait for the warmth of Punta del Este," said the American skipper, who was last in these waters aboard *Tracey Edwards* four years ago.

Eleven hours earlier Matt Humphries and his *Dolphin* & *Youth* crew endured a far rougher passage. Faced with 25-knot northerly headwinds and uncomfortably large seas, the British crew took more than two hours to tack round the Cape.

Humphries reported no further deterioration in the fastenings holding *Dolphin's* keel since three bolts sheared a week ago, and confidently sailed round into the slanting seas under full sail.

Last night, *Heineken* skipper Eugene Sahaedechny the Ukrainian entry skipper by Eugene

## POSITIONS

At 14.00GMT yesterday with *Heineken* on course: 1. *Heineken* (USA) 2. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 3. *Heineken* (USA) 4. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 5. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 6. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 7. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 8. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 9. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 10. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 11. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 12. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 13. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 14. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 15. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 16. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 17. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 18. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 19. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 20. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 21. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 22. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 23. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 24. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 25. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 26. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 27. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 28. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 29. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 30. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 31. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 32. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 33. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 34. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 35. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 36. *Tracey Edwards* (USA) 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# Venables must not entertain ideas about aesthetic appeal

The England rugby union team won an extraordinary match against France on Saturday. Now it stands accused of being "boring". The same day, Chelsea went to Manchester United to stifle and spoil and maybe nick one on the break to be boring, in short, And they won.

The new England football coach, Terry Venables, has his first game in charge today, against Denmark. He will be expected to "play the right way" — in other words, to play in a way that gives some kind of aesthetic pleasure to spectators.

I keep hearing that teams "have an obligation to entertain the public". Let us examine that idea a little more closely.

England could have gone to Paris resolving to play every ball as if they were the Fiji seven-a-side

team. Throw the ball around, entertain the crowd. Take risks. France would have run up 50 points before half-time.

Chelsea could have gone to Old Trafford and attacked in a mad cavalry charge. That too would have resulted in 50-0 at half-time and not to Chelsea.

If you have opponents of great flair, is it then your duty to open the game up and allow them to show their skills in the name of entertainment?

No. Entertainment is not the point of sport; it is a by-product. The point of sport is the struggle for victory. The reason why sport is entertaining is because the intense and genuine struggle enralls.

The struggle lays bare the nature of the contestants, their strength, their weakness. The

obligation of the athlete lies here and nowhere else. They must not seek to "entertain"; they must seek victory, glory, perfection. Entertainment will follow.

Venables will play Paul Gascoigne, if fit, as his play-maker, not because Gascoigne is "entertaining", but because he wins football matches. His skill, his intensity and his volatility generally make him entertaining, but that is incidental.

A player has no duty beyond seeking victory, seeking to avoid defeat. But entertainment is not a simple thing. It is not only goals and tries and tricks and victories that entertain; it is also saves and tackles and, yes, defeats and draws.

There are few more satisfying sporting matters than the theft of a result from vastly superior oppo-

## MIDWEEK VIEW



SIMON BARNES

nents. To blunt a bowling attack with a long period of blocking, this is a complicated delight. Should the blocker entertain? Should he play that Gower flick-pull that worked once or twice in

the nets? Or should he compete, seek to win in the best way he can — stifle and spoil and struggle?

Which brings us to flair. Eric Cantona and the *excusez-moi* backheel; Stuart Barnes converting defence into attack with his mind in top gear; David Gower.

Such players give great delight and are part of the stuff of sport. If sport were entertainment it would be the duty of the opposition to give such flair a good show. But sport is struggle or it is worth nothing.

Flair must never get an easy ride. Flair, like any other sporting skill, is worth nothing if it cannot work in the most hostile possible circumstances. If the opposition provide the flair, you must provide the hostile circumstances. Without ferocious de-

fence, negativity, stifling, marking, confrontation, there is no mesmerising alliance of flair and courage and beauty, merely show-ing-off.

Flair is a way of seeking victory, and good managers, captains and coaches ignore it at their peril. Graham Gooch, the former England cricket captain, distrusted flair, not because he was a realist, but because he was a romantic about physical fitness. For that matter, Jack Charlton, the Ireland football manager, is romantic about being a realist.

But the best team leaders see things with two good eyes, blinded neither by the romanticism of flair nor by the romanticism of expedience. Sir Alf Ramsey had it and Mike Brearley, to an extent, had it. Geoff Cooke still will seek to demonstrate that skill for one

more match. People find Pete Sampras boring on the tennis court, but he says: "The court is my office. I'm not paid to be a comedian." Bjorn Borg was the same. Nobody remembers him as boring. He was a player who gave all in the struggle.

Which brings us finally to Venables and his need to produce an England team that will please the ballers critics in the stand. Perhaps he should listen to the regrets of Don Revie, the former England football manager. "As soon as it dawned on me that we were short of players that combined skill and commitment, I should have forgotten all about trying to play more controlled, attractive football and settled for a real bastard of a team."

## England recall Richards to squad

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND, reflecting a playing style a harsh critic might describe as minimalist, made no unnecessary complication to their squad yesterday. They added only Dean Richards to the party of 21 that was in France last weekend and will confirm the team to play Wales at Twickenham on March 19 in the final of rugby union's five nations' championship when they train on Sunday.

The prospect of Richards returning, after a dislocated elbow, for his 30th cap at No 8 seems no better than 50-50. Although the selectors have picked players this season after just one game to prove their fitness and Leicester are expected to include Richards tonight in their league team against Newcastle Gosforth on Saturday, England must be happy with the form of their back row against France.

They may also have in mind the speed and strength shown by Scott Quinnell, the Wales No 8, against France last month. There is no doubt that, at close quarters, Richards can match anyone in world rugby for mauling ability and his rugby instincts take him to places few No 8s may think of, but were Quinnell to find space — as Wales must hope he will — then the speed of Steve Ojomoh might be a welcome asset to England.

Ojomoh, moreover, showed great athleticism at the lineout against France, a phase that England dominated in the second half, despite the best efforts of Laurent Cabannes. The alternative scenario is that the streetwise Welsh will not give Ojomoh quite so much scope and that Richards, who has played against them five times, knows exactly how to deal with them.

First, however, the England players must survive a round of league matches on Saturday, including a meeting between Bath and Wasps very relevant to the outcome of the

Courage Clubs Championship. Bath have left out Ojomoh to enable him to rest the ankle he injured in Paris. The Wales selectors have no worries about their players picking up injuries since there are no Heineken League first division matches this weekend, only the A international against Canada at the Arms Park.

Four senior caps have been named in the side — among them Adrian Davies, the Cardiff stand-off half, who is also the captain. He has Neil Boobyer, Mike Griffiths and Paul Arnold for company, but there are nine changes from the side that beat Ireland 20-10 at Donnybrook last month as the selectors rotate their potential replacements in the senior side.

The Welsh hold a squad session this evening, which has disrupted the Barbarians' plans for the annual Mobbs memorial match against the East Midlands at Northampton this afternoon. The Irish have come galloping to the rescue and offer six new Baa-baas, among them the newly-capped centre from Malone, Maurice Field, and the Blackrock College trio of Matthew Ridge, Niall Woods and Alain Rolland.

Scott Quinnell's younger brother, Craig, will play on the blind-side flank for Wales Youth against France in Le Puy on Saturday.

ENGLAND SQUAD: Backs: D. Peers (Hartlepool), I. Hunter (Northampton), R. Underwood (Leicester/RP), W. Carling (Hartlepool), P. de Glanville (Bath), M. Catt (Bath), R. Andrew (Wasps), S. Barnes (Bath), D. Morris (Ipswich), K. Bracken (Bristol), J. Forrester (Leicester), R. Evans (Leicester), V. Uagou (Bath), G. Rowntree (Leicester), S. Moore (Hartlepool), G. Dawe (Bath), M. Johnson (Leicester), N. Redman (Bath), T. Redder (Northampton), S. Ojomoh (Bath), D. Richards (Leicester), S. Clarke (Bath), D. Ryan (Wasps).

WALE SQUAD: Backs: D. Peers (Hartlepool), I. Hunter (Northampton), R. Underwood (Leicester/RP), W. Carling (Hartlepool), P. de Glanville (Bath), M. Catt (Bath), R. Andrew (Wasps), S. Barnes (Bath), D. Morris (Ipswich), K. Bracken (Bristol), J. Forrester (Leicester), R. Evans (Leicester), V. Uagou (Bath), G. Rowntree (Leicester), S. Moore (Hartlepool), G. Dawe (Bath), M. Johnson (Leicester), N. Redman (Bath), T. Redder (Northampton), S. Ojomoh (Bath), D. Richards (Leicester), S. Clarke (Bath), D. Ryan (Wasps).

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England may prefer to keep the pace of Ojomoh in the back row when they pick the team to face Wales

## Welsh launch lottery as others wait

A QUIRK of coincidence yesterday allowed the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) to announce details of a new lottery in Cardiff while, in London, it was revealed that the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) has yet to agree on money-raising schemes submitted for approval by the French and New Zealand rugby unions (David Hands writes).

The WRU admits that "a significant part" of the profits from its lottery, which it hopes will generate more than £1 million in its first year, will go into the trust fund for its international squad. "Statistics prove that one in six players who play for Wales turn to rugby league," Edward Jones, the secretary of the WRU, said. "We have decided to launch the lottery to help create more wealth for the

game as a whole, and to allow everyone in Wales to contribute to the good of our national game and to find further ways of helping our players."

Last weekend, the French federation finalised details of a scheme which would earn their international squad members £6,000 a year, but, at an IRFB briefing prior to the annual meeting last month, Keith Rowlands, the board secretary, said both that scheme and a project presented by New Zealand had yet to receive final approval. The board is also awaiting a report on the acceptability of the All Blacks Supporters' Club, launched last summer but to no great public acclaim.

Both schemes will be considered by the IRFB amateurism committee whose agen-

da will also include a proposal from Ireland aimed at that proliferating breed, the director of rugby. The Irish seek to amend regulation five, which relates to the involvement in coaching of paid officials. If the proposal were accepted, it would limit paid officials to coaching under-21 players and would mean that they could have nothing to do with senior teams, even in a general sense.

The proposal runs contrary to present trends, but is intended to restrict the pressure on amateur players which a professional coach is inclined to create, since his job depends so much on results. At a time when rugby must surely be nearing full-time management appointments for national sides, it may be no more than a gesture.

## Prost back on track but in no hurry to make plans

By OLIVER HOLY

THE lure of motor racing still grips Alain Prost, but not, it appears, enough for him to appear for McLaren-Peugeot in the first race of the new season in Brazil at the end of this month. He returned to the track at Estoril, Portugal, yesterday, to test for the Woking-based team, but said it was unlikely he would make a decision about whether to renege on retirement for several weeks.

After a day of uneven testing at an eerily deserted circuit, populated only by McLaren personnel, frustrated journalists and twitchy security guards, Prost spoke emotionally of his first drive in a Formula One car for five months. He announced his decision to retire at Estoril last September, two days before he clinched his fourth world title with Williams-Renault, who still have him under contract.

"I felt quite emotional when I started driving the car again this morning," he said. "I still have a great passion for motor racing. It is a very strange situation because I am back with the team where I know 90 per cent of the people and feel quite at home. It is difficult for me to know what to say and I cannot tell you until long after this week what my decision will be. It may be one month before I make my decision and announce it."

Prost secured more than half of his 51 victories and three of his four world championships with McLaren in the Eighties. His procrastination will boost the chances of a place in the McLaren set-up for either Martin Brundle or Johnny Herbert, alongside the team's one named driver, Mika Hakkinen. They may then give way to Prost if he decides on a belated return.

Brundle, who rejected a move to Jordan earlier in the year, tested the new car last week and is the favourite to beat his British compatriot to the prized drive. Herbert's employers, Lotus, are determined to hold him to his contract and criticised Ron Dennis, the McLaren managing director, last week for his approach to Herbert.

## Rickman cruises through to final for third time

By GORDON ALLAN

SHARON Rickman, of King George Field, Chessington, makes her third attempt to win the EWIBA Champion of Champions when she plays Sue Curtis, of Beccles, in the final at Darlington today.

Runner-up to Lynn Thelwell in 1991 and Eileen Vigor last season, Rickman has already beaten two of the favourites, Doreen Hankin and Edna Bessell. Yesterday, she had no trouble against Margaret Knight, of Chessington, winning 21-6.

The other semi-final was a different matter with Curtis beating Jean Baker, of South Forest (Nottinghamshire) 21-20 in a battle lasting 24 ends. The lead changed hands several times, each player having high spots and low, before Baker levelled the scores at 20-20 with a three. But Curtis held her nerve to obtain the all-important shot on the next end.

It has been a bad two days for Baker, a former national singles champion outdoors — beaten on the last end of the pairs final on Monday and now out of the Champion of Champions. She is, however, still in the main singles event, which starts tomorrow.

In the triples, Taunton, skipped by Jill Young, beat a Croydon side including two internationals, Eileen Vigor and Thelwell, 22-17 before edging out Handy Cross, Hild, Wycombe, 14-13 to qualify for the semi-finals. Handy Cross, skipped by Lynn Thelwell, scored three on the penultimate end to tie the match 13-13 and seemed to have won with a ditched jack. But Taunton drew to the edge of the ditch for the winner and Thelwell could do nothing about it.

Angel, Tonbridge, two of whom played in the championship winning triple last season, were beaten by a single shot by Peterborough, skipped by Catherine Anton. Paddington, runners-up three years ago, went out to Barwell, Leicester, and Thamesdown defeated Gateshead. The semi-final pairings are Barwell v Peterborough and Thamesdown v Taunton.

## FOR THE RECORD

### BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Guilford 87 (Brown 28) Birmingham 80 (Thomas 17). NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Detroit 85 New York 99; Miami 104 Boston 112; Milwaukee 84 Los Angeles Lakers 106; Portland 137 Golden State 108.

### CYCLING

PARIS TO NICE RACE: Second stage (Nantes to Gen, 161km): 1, F. Baldato (It) 3hr 40min; 2, M. Caporali (It) 3:41; 3, C. Aboumayor (It) 3:42; 4, L. Joubert (Fr) 3:43; 5, C. Aboumayor (It) 3:44; 6, E. Leoni (It) all same time. Third stage (Nantes to Compost-Ferrand, 204km): 1, Aboumayor 5hr 38min; 2, Baldato 5:40; 3, Caporali 5:41; 4, Leoni 5:42; 5, Caporali 5:43; 6, Joubert 5:44; 7, Baldato 5:45; 8, Leoni 5:46; 9, Caporali 5:47; 10, Joubert 5:48; 11, Baldato 5:49; 12, Leoni 5:50; 13, Caporali 5:51; 14, Joubert 5:52; 15, Baldato 5:53; 16, Leoni 5:54; 17, Caporali 5:55; 18, Joubert 5:56; 19, Baldato 5:57; 20, Leoni 5:58; 21, Caporali 5:59; 22, Joubert 6:00; 23, Baldato 6:01; 24, Leoni 6:02; 25, Caporali 6:03; 26, Joubert 6:04; 27, Baldato 6:05; 28, Leoni 6:06; 29, Caporali 6:07; 30, Joubert 6:08; 31, Baldato 6:09; 32, Leoni 6:10; 33, Caporali 6:11; 34, Joubert 6:12; 35, Baldato 6:13; 36, Leoni 6:14; 37, Caporali 6:15; 38, Joubert 6:16; 39, Baldato 6:17; 40, Leoni 6:18; 41, Caporali 6:19; 42, Joubert 6:20; 43, Baldato 6:21; 44, Leoni 6:22; 45, Caporali 6:23; 46, Joubert 6:24; 47, Baldato 6:25; 48, Leoni 6:26; 49, Caporali 6:27; 50, Joubert 6:28; 51, Baldato 6:29; 52, Leoni 6:30; 53, Caporali 6:31; 54, Joubert 6:32; 55, Baldato 6:33; 56, Leoni 6:34; 57, Caporali 6:35; 58, Joubert 6:36; 59, Baldato 6:37; 60, Leoni 6:38; 61, Caporali 6:39; 62, Joubert 6:40; 63, Baldato 6:41; 64, Leoni 6:42; 65, Caporali 6:43; 66, Joubert 6:44; 67, Baldato 6:45; 68, Leoni 6:46; 69, Caporali 6:47; 70, Joubert 6:48; 71, Baldato 6:49; 72, Leoni 6:50; 73, Caporali 6:51; 74, Joubert 6:52; 75, Baldato 6:53; 76, Leoni 6:54; 77, Caporali 6:55; 78, Joubert 6:56; 79, Baldato 6:57; 80, Leoni 6:58; 81, Caporali 6:59; 82, Joubert 7:00; 83, Baldato 7:01; 84, Leoni 7:02; 85, Caporali 7:03; 86, Joubert 7:04; 87, Baldato 7:05; 88, Leoni 7:06; 89, Caporali 7:07; 90, Joubert 7:08; 91, Baldato 7:09; 92, Leoni 7:10; 93, Caporali 7:11; 94, Joubert 7:12; 95, Baldato 7:13; 96, Leoni 7:14; 97, Caporali 7:15; 98, Joubert 7:16; 99, Baldato 7:17; 100, Leoni 7:18; 101, Caporali 7:19; 102, Joubert 7:20; 103, Baldato 7:21; 104, Leoni 7:22; 105, Caporali 7:23; 106, Joubert 7:24; 107, Baldato 7:25; 108, Leoni 7:26; 109, Caporali 7:27; 110, Joubert 7:28; 111, Baldato 7:29; 112, Leoni 7:30; 113, Caporali 7:31; 114, Joubert 7:32; 115, Baldato 7:33; 116, Leoni 7:34; 117, Caporali 7:35; 118, Joubert 7:36; 119, Baldato 7:37; 120, Leoni 7:38; 121, Caporali 7:39; 122, Joubert 7:40; 123, Baldato 7:41; 124, Leoni 7:42; 125, Caporali 7:43; 126, Joubert 7:44; 127, Baldato 7:45; 128, Leoni 7:46; 129, Caporali 7:47; 130, Joubert 7:48; 131, Baldato 7:49; 132, Leoni 7:50; 133, Caporali 7:51; 134, Joubert 7:52; 135, Baldato 7:53; 136, Leoni 7:54; 137, Caporali 7:55; 138, Joubert 7:56; 139, Baldato 7:57; 140, Leoni 7:58; 141, Caporali 7:59; 142, Joubert 8:00; 143, Baldato 8:01; 144, Leoni 8:02; 145, Caporali 8:03; 146, Joubert 8:04; 147, Baldato 8:05; 148, Leoni 8:06; 149, Caporali 8:07; 150, Joubert 8:08; 151, Baldato 8:09; 152, Leoni 8:10; 153, Caporali 8:11; 154, Joubert 8:12; 155, Baldato 8:13; 156, Leoni 8:14; 157, Caporali 8:15; 158, Joubert 8:16; 159, Baldato 8:17; 160, Leoni 8:18; 161, Caporali 8:19; 162, Joubert 8:20; 163, Baldato 8:21; 164, Leoni 8:22; 165, Caporali 8:23; 166, Joubert 8:24; 167, Baldato 8:25; 168, Leoni 8:26; 169, Caporali 8:27; 170, Joubert 8:28; 171, Baldato 8:29; 172, Leoni 8:30; 173, Caporali 8:31; 174, Joubert 8:32; 175, Baldato 8:33; 176, Leoni 8:34; 177, Caporali 8:35; 178, Joubert 8:36; 179, Baldato 8:37; 180, Leoni 8:38; 181, Caporali 8:39; 182, Joubert 8:40; 183, Baldato 8:41; 184, Leoni 8:42; 185, Caporali 8:43; 186, Joub







# Venables brings voice of reason to England set-up

DO NOT expect miracles but be assured about the introduction of some common sense. During the first three days Terry Venables has been in charge of an England football squad, he has offered more realism than has been heard in the past three years. That is no guarantee England will beat Denmark tonight. Sir Alf Ramsey's first team lost 5-2 to France.

Venables will have good times and bad times, as Ramsey or any other international manager/coach does, but the policies of tactics and selection will, on the surprising evidence of his early comments, be based on sound reason and personal experience as both a player and manager who has known the game at the top.

His England team can be expected to be mean rather than mindlessly physical, functional rather than pretty, effective as opposed to boring, adaptable instead of regimented.

Irrespective of my feelings and knowledge of Venables since he was a teenage amateur, this is not the moment for dredging and recycling speculative allegations about his financial affairs. For better or worse, Venables must live with his past. What he now needs is national loyalty and judgment on his present performance. The expected attendance at Wembley tonight, for the visit of Richard Møller-Nielsen's European champions, suggests the football public is, happily, preoccupied with the future not the past.

Running a national team is, even more than with a club team, a matter of understanding and judging not merely playing ability but character. A club team can sometimes shield a clever player with inadequate character. A national side cannot. In order to turn the corner from the indignities of the past couple of seasons, Venables knows that personality will count as much as ability.

"It isn't so much a question of work rate," he says, "as being willing, and having the intelligence, to roll your sleeves up and do what is good for the rest of the team. Players of the quality of Bobby Charlton and Alan Ball fundamentally worked for the team. There are two ways of getting the ball — from your own team and from the opposition. The first is the easy way but there's another. You've got to be collectively hard."



Judging by his early comments, David Miller predicts a sound future for the new national coach

The immediate demonstration of Venables's philosophy is the appointment of David Platt as captain and the reasons he gave. "David is in international football every week, in a sophisticated tactical framework," he said. "He will know when to move into positions that may be necessary for the team. The captain has to be someone who understands what you want."

Venables knows that his players have to be able to think for themselves, and for him, once they are out of communication on the pitch. Graham Taylor's teams often exhibited embarrassed confusion. Venables is going to be searching for those who are both physically and temperamentally tough, who do not let



Venables: realist

each other down, morally. Bobby Charlton always used to say that playing for England was "primarily a slog". To which Venables retorts: "Correct. There is a little time for refinement."

Asked how England could turn the corner, he said: "By the players you select and the system you use, and not turning back." That is not the vague euphemism it might sound. He means that, after a few matches settling in, he will opt for a regular pattern on which the players can depend. The one form of continuity available to an international manager.

And the system will allow for possession football, not hoof-n-chase. "Football isn't boxing," Venables says. "where you KO the opponent out of nothing. You have turn

possession into goals. If passing creates goals, that's fine. It's not just a matter of being pretty but an end to a means."

Venables is not a coaching phenomenon but it was a masterstroke to sell Mardona, then the best player in the world, and buy Steve Archibald, thereby creating a championship-winning team at Barcelona. Venables will be looking for Archibalds: tireless, selfless, intelligent runners, able to do the same indispensable job that Roger Hunt did for Ramsey.

"The truth is that if you play effectively, that will be attractive," Venables says. "We've got to know more about what's happening abroad, to get to grips with their habits and ideas. We've got to look at the sweeper system, and see if it suits us."

He admits that, compared with Taylor, he is fortunate to have a period in which, as European hosts, England do not have to play competitive qualifying matches. "It's a help and won't do damage if we lose," he said. "At least I've got room for planning."

It concerns him that, whereas Ramsey had 37 matches prior to the World Cup of 1966, he may struggle to find suitable opposition because of other teams' competitive commitments. Venables is relatively optimistic about the standard of players available at the present time, though it is not for him to say that recent poor form was due to policy rather than players.

"If you consider the present premier league and first division, there are nine or ten strikers all doing well," he said. "I don't think we've had such a selection up front for some time."

One phrase stood out when he was talking about Platt's appointment: stable and adaptable. The first requirement under Venables will be that any player has to deliver. Better to have 95 per cent from an unexceptional player than an unpredictable 50 per cent from a so-called star. A celebrated critic once despised Ramsey for "wanting genius to come dripping in sweat." Anyone hoping to play for Venables will have to be prepared to sweat.



Møller-Nielsen, the Denmark manager, reflects yesterday on the prospects of his side on its visit to play England at Wembley

## Toshack starts with sweeping changes

By KEITH PIKE

THE tactical revolution promised by the appointment of John Toshack as the coach of Wales has claimed its first victims, and high profile ones at that. Neither Dean Saunders nor, barring a late change of heart by Toshack, Ian Rush, their record goalscorers, will play against Norway at Ninian Park tonight.

Not so much a new broom as a snow plough. Certainly, nobody can doubt the bravery of decisions that will leave some sections of the Welsh public still seething over the departure of Toshack's predecessor, stunned in disbelief. Already deprived through injury of Giggs, their favourite son, as well as Goss and

Symons, two other certain starters, the omission of two more members of the Welsh fab four — especially Rush — seems at first glance a foolhardy, almost masochistic move.

But bravery in this case is based on logic. Do the players he has at his disposal have the flexibility to meet the demands of his system — "sistema Toshack" a fluid formation that brought Real Madrid the Spanish championship in 1990 — or will the system have to be tailored to their limitations? Toshack needs to find out.

He hopes it is the former, and was encouraged by his first training session in Cardiff yesterday. But the days when sides were manipulated to accommodate all the talents of Rush, Saunders, Giggs and

Mark Hughes are gone. Hughes will be released from the midfield role he has undertaken valiantly but often in vain to resume his club position as the focal point of the attack.

Toshack has not completely discounted the possibility of asking Rush, 27 goals in 63 games for his country, to adopt a deeper, more creative role, but the likelihood is that he will start the game on the sidelines.

"I do not want to play people in areas of the field where they are not comfortable," Toshack said. "I would rather have thirty minutes of somebody doing a job he does well than ninety where he is unable to perform."

It is not, Toshack stressed, the end, or even the beginning

of the end, for Rush and Saunders. The Villa striker's place was always at risk once Ceri Hughes, the highly promising Luton Town schemer, would certainly have won his second had he not been needed by his club last night.

With six of their starting eleven presently plying their trade in England, Norway will provide strangely familiar opponents. "I will use the games up to September [Wales play Sweden next month, and hope to confirm two games in May, including one against England] to have a look at various things," Toshack said. "But by then we must have a very good idea of where we are going. Then, the only important thing will be the result, and we will have only one chance to get it right."

Perry, the Cardiff captain,

and Blake, who left their last month for Sheffield United, both win their first full caps. Ceri Hughes, the highly promising Luton Town schemer, would certainly have won his second had he not been needed by his club last night.

With six of their starting eleven presently plying their trade in England, Norway will provide strangely familiar opponents.

Wales (1-2-3-1, probably): N Southall (Swansea) — A Mawson (Sunderland) — E Young (Cardiff City), C Coleman (Cardiff City), J Perry (Cardiff City), G Home (Exeter), D Phillips (Nottingham Forest) — N Davis (Sheff Wed), M Pemberton (Derby County), G Speed (Leeds United) — M Hughes (Manchester United) — K P Lallen (Preston), N Bagg (Blackburn Rovers), S I Barmby (Liverpool), T Pedersen (Sheff Wed), E Hyland (Sheff Wed), J J Jackson (Luton) — J P Ho (Sheff Wed), J A Forster (Sheff Wed).

## Atkinson rules out move

By CHRIS MOORE

RON Atkinson, the Aston Villa manager, has ruled out any immediate move to sign Carlton Palmer, Sheffield Wednesday's unsettled England international.

Atkinson has long been an admirer of the 28-year-old utility player — five years ago he took Palmer from West Bromwich Albion to Hillsborough for £750,000.

But last night, Atkinson, who has taken Villa through to this month's final of the Coca-Cola League Cup at Wembley, said: "I am not anticipating making any major signings before the transfer deadline."

Palmer asked for a transfer this week after the latest of many disputes with Trevor Francis, the Wednesday manager. He was told to put the request in writing.

"Any player we brought in now would be cup-tied as far as our trip to Wembley is concerned, and I am not looking to strengthen the side just to try to finish third in the

FA Premiership," Atkinson said. "We already have a squad of players good enough to achieve that target."

However, if Palmer does become available for transfer, there seems little doubt he will be a prime target for Atkinson during the summer.

The Benfica winger, Jose Domingues, yesterday joined the struggling first division side, Birmingham City, in a deal worth £80,000.

Barry Fry, the City manager, was resigned to losing Domingues when the player had talks with Blackburn Rovers. But Domingues, 20, who has signed a two-and-a-half-year contract with City, said: "I spoke to Blackburn but I decided Birmingham City was a better move."

"Now I want to repay City for their faith in me by saving them from relegation," Fry said. "We couldn't match what Blackburn had to offer. But I told him that if he went to Blackburn he could be

playing in front of two men and a dog in the reserve team."

"Here, I am prepared to put him in the first team on Saturday and I'm sure he can become a hero with the fans."

Roberto Baggio, the European footballer of the year, may need surgery on his right knee.

Baggio, 26, of Juventus, is the leading scorer in the Italian Serie A with 16 goals.

"He will be examined later this week to determine whether he will need surgery to repair the meniscus in his right knee," Romi Gai, of Juventus, said. The meniscus acts as the knee's shock-absorber.

Baggio, whose career was threatened after surgery on the same knee nine years ago, injured the knee again last week when Juventus lost 1-0 to Cagliari in the UEFA Cup.

"If he does need surgery, it will be very modest," Gai said. Even modest surgery would be likely to sideline Baggio for about three weeks.

## Britain embrace Newlove

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

SIX weeks after retiring from international rugby league at 22, Paul Newlove is back in the Great Britain fold. His inclusion yesterday in the squad for the match against France in Carcassonne on Sunday week ends a sorry episode of mismanagement.

The Bradford Northern centre decided to abandon the international scene after criticism by the Rugby Football League for his withdrawal from the Britain squad for the World Sevens. He was moving house at the time. In the peace reached between player and authorities, a charge of misconduct against him has been dropped.

Newlove is seen as vital to Britain's cause against Australia in the three matches this autumn. It was with these in mind that Malcolm Reilly, the Britain coach, has chosen an experienced 19-strong squad. He has preferred not to cast his net wide, with the exception of Barrie-Jon Mather, of Wigan, the one uncapped

member. Six players who did not participate in the 3-0 series defeat of New Zealand last November are recalled, four from Castleford.

There are deserved places for Lee Crooks and Graham Steadman, and Reilly will resolve his most intriguing problem at scrum half when Mike Ford opposes Shaun Edwards, of Wigan, in the first Challenge Cup semi-final on Saturday.

The match at Headingley is also a chance to compare the wingers — St John Ellis, the leading try scorer this season, with 31, and Martin Offiah, with 20, although John Bentley, of Halifax, has staked an

impressive claim in recent weeks. Reilly's options have already been restricted by injury and there are doubts over the fitness of Jonathan Davies, Paul Moriarty and Martin Dermott.

There is also the outstanding problem of an appearance by Kelvin Skerrett before the disciplinary committee on Thursday, which might mean a reshuffle.

GREAT BRITAIN SQUAD: Backs: J Bentley (Halifax), G Connolly (Wigan), J Davies (Warrington), S Edwards (Wigan), S Ellis (Castleford), M Ford (Castleford), P Newlove (Bradford Northern), M Offiah (Wigan), D Powell (Sheff Wed), G Schofield (Leeds, captain), G Steadman (Castleford), F. Crooks (Castleford), M Dermott (Wigan), K Fairbank (Bradford Northern), A Farrell (Wigan), C Joynt (St Helens), S J Mather (Wigan), P Moriarty (Wigan), K Skerrett (Wigan).

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## Le Huray hurries Oxford to victory

Oxford University ..... 5  
Cambridge University ..... 0

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

OXFORD retained the Varsity Bowl after beating Cambridge emphatically in the University hockey match at Reading yesterday, extending their sequence of successes in the fixture to four.

An even richer harvest might have been gathered by a side whose attacks had a quality and intensity Cambridge lacked. At times it seemed as if Oxford's record 7-0 victory, in 1976, might be surpassed.

Two players, Le Huray and Graham, dominated the match, scoring all the goals between them. Le Huray obtaining three in succession. Graham is captain of the South Africa national team and Le Huray played with distinction for Teddington last season.

Cambridge conceded a goal within two minutes and only a superb display by

Lynch in goal averted a landslide in the first half, which ended with Oxford leading 3-0.

Graham, sent through a gap in the defence by Steffen Griffiths, the Oxford captain, opened the scoring with a fierce rising shot. Three short corners to Oxford followed, but Cambridge retaliated with two, calling on Wesley in the Oxford goal to save from Stott.

That was as near as Cambridge came to scoring in the first half. Oxford increasing their advantage with a goal by Le Huray from a free hit by Griffiths after 19 minutes. Le Huray added his second following a short corner five minutes before the interval.

Two minutes after the resumption, Le Huray obtained Oxford's fourth goal, his third, from a short corner, with some help from Bloor, and Cambridge were left without hope.

Cambridge raised their game thereafter but had no luck when Padfield failed to get past the goalkeeper at a short corner. By now their attacks, led by

Bolger, had begun to look more effective. But Oxford regained control and scored their fifth goal, Graham working his way through on the right to score. Oxford had 12 short corners and Cambridge four. The individual match awards were won by Lynch and Griffiths.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY: D Wesley (Wellington Coll and Worcester); R Macdonald (Rushmore Coll and St Peter's Hall); P Ball (Cambridge Coll, Belfast, and Lincoln); R Heston (King Edward VI, Southampton, and Worcester); J Pratt (Trinity Coll and Worcester); C Bloor (Plymouth Mark GS and Kates); S Gifford (Wright and University, captain); G Edwards (Lincoln Univ, NZ, and Lincoln); W Graham (Gray School, SA, and Kates); M Le Huray (King's College, London and Kates); D Edwards (Epsom Coll and St Edmund Hall). Substitutes used: Anshul Khan (RGS High Wycombe and Christ Church); S Mackay (Elizabeth Coll, Guernsey, and Templeton).

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: D Lynch (Frinton, Lisburn, and Cakes); J Stott (Wellington and Homerton); D Padfield (Dean Close and Gars); A Walker (Toth Landesschule, Germany, and Trinity); R Cole (RGS Wexley and St John's); T McCarthy (Simon Langton BS and St John's); C Johns; S High Wycombe and Gironi); J Foley (Milton GS and St John's); M Carver (King Edward VI, Southampton, and Corpus Christi, captain); R Stevens (Saint Cyprian and Hughes Hall); D Bolger (Bedford and Homerton). Substitutes used: W Ashmore (Rushley and Emmanuel); S Crisp (Southern Counties) and M York (Midland Counties).

Photograph, page 48

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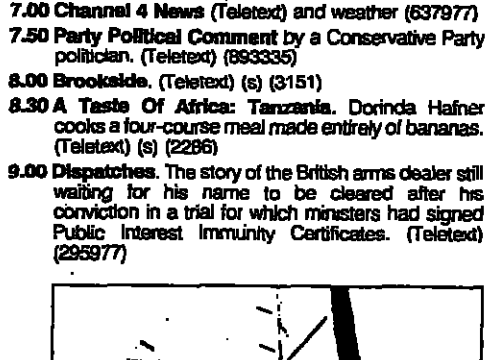
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- 6.35 *Jays and the Wheeled Warriors* (r) (3041793)
- 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (37608)
- 9.00 *Sabotage*. All-game show (s) (53285)
- 9.30 *Schools: Videomasters* (4615877) 9.45 *Talk, Write and Read* (463639) 10.00 *Science: Start Here!* (4804159) 10.15 *Mind Your Own Business* (4683605) 10.40 *Technology Programme* (7217170) 10.56 *Film and Video Showcase* (3563159) 11.07 *Time for Maths* (8847606) 11.18 *Mathsbox* (8861286) 11.30 *Pat-a-Tat-Tat!* (1424248) 11.45 *Junior Technology* (1285731)
- 12.00 *House To House*. With *Maya Evans* (33422)
- 12.30 *Sesame Street*. The guest is actress Annette Bening (93733) 1.30 *The Magic Roundabout* followed by *Mr Men*, *Quaz Quo* and *Musi* (82286)
- 2.00 *FILM: Dr Erlich's Magic Bullet* (1940, b/w). A German scientist (Edward G. Robinson) develops a cure for venereal disease. Excellent bio-pic directed by William Dieterle (711770)
- 3.50 *Quintoscopes*. Animation (3972712)
- 3.55 *Memento*. Yachtswoman Claire Francis talks to Joan Bakewell about her favourite things (r) (Teletext) (s) (7094373)
- 4.30 *Countdown*. (Teletext) (s) (828)
- 5.00 *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. A discussion on teenage dating violence (1089538)
- 5.50 *Laurel and Hardy*. Cartoon version (191809)
- 6.00 *Monk and Mindy*. American comedy starring Robin Williams (r) (793)
- 6.30 *A Different World*. Dwayne tries to become a teacher to two friends. (373)



10



**Huw Kennedy builds a trebuchet (9.45pm)**

**9.45 DROVE Working Parts: Toys For The Boys (Teletext) (s) (351480)**

**0.00 The Golden Girls (r) (Teletext) (156915)**

**0.35 Absolutely... Comedy series (r). (Teletext) (399828)**

**1.10 Moviewatch. Cinemagoers in Sunderland comment on the latest releases (r) (s) (947094)**

**1.40 Extreme Asia. Laszlo Kistofas looks at rock 'n' roll in China, studies a theatre group in Siberia and visits an artist in Thailand whose paintings are a response to brutal military actions (876947)**

**2.15am Flying Blind. Neil persuades Alicia to have therapy (s) (50942)**

**2.45 L.A. Law. Courtroom drama (4361294)**

**1.40 The Puzzle of HIV. Exploration of the current limits of knowledge about HIV (r). (Teletext) (s) (8068661) Ends at 2.45**

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WEDNESDAY MARCH 9 1994

## Le Huray the toast of Oxford in University match



Le Huray, left, who scored three goals, tangles with Bolgar, of Cambridge, in the University hockey match in Reading yesterday. Oxford won 5-0. Report, page 46

Loose cannon  
concentrates  
on new targetPatricia Davies on the comeback attempt  
of a golfer who has revised his wild ways

Larry Nelson won the US PGA championship twice and the US Open once, but nobody noticed because he is a man in the Clement Attlee mould: so quiet that he arrives at tournaments in an empty courtesy-car. Only last week, Nelson was talking about his lack of recognition and what it takes to become a star.

"You either have to be extremely good, extremely flamboyant or extremely controversial, and I don't know that I fit into any of those categories," he said.

Well, one man who fits into all of them — a sort of Nye Bevan to Nelson's Attlee — is John Daly, whose short career could best be described as combustible. Like Nelson, Daly is a PGA champion, but all comparison ends there. In between hitting golf balls vast distances — "gripping" it and "ripping" it — the Daly round included boozing, wife-beating and home-wrecking. His behaviour on the golf course was also far from impeccable; last November Deane Beman, the commissioner of the US PGA tour, suspended him.

The tour is a corporate entity, peopled by officials in blazers and men in suits, and in their eyes Daly had become a loose cannon. A man fighting against alcoholism and in the throes of his second divorce, he was deemed a menace.

This week, after four months off, Daly, 27, is back, ready to play in the Honda Classic and pick up his life and his career. He looked relaxed and fit, with a haircut and ready to take on the world again.

"The suspension was great," he said, "because I needed some time off. I had time to work on my game and I went back to basics, like when I was ten years old."

"Hell, for two years I never even sat back and worked on my game for a good solid week, much less two and a half months. Now I'm looking forward to Augusta and I want to win a million dollars on the tour this year."

One of Daly's problems was the manner of his arrival in the limelight. He exploded on to the scene in 1991 with a victory in the PGA championship at Crooked Stick that had

all the ingredients of a fairytale — ninth reserve, called in at the last minute, drive through the night, no practice round, monstrous driving, magical short game. From then on the pressure was non-stop.

"I went all over the place," he said. "The money was too good. It was hard to say no and you run yourself ragged without even knowing it."

Now Daly is cutting down on his commitments, consulting a sports psychologist and concentrating on the important things in life: his daughter, staying sober and his golf.

"It's the same with golf and alcohol," he said. "Take it day by day. I didn't play good last year but I did pretty good outside golf. My goal was to stay sober and I did that. That was like winning a major



Daly: new man

championship. I wanted to drink every day but I never reached for a beer."

To help him resist temptation, he smokes four packets of cigarettes a day, has bought a bus-like motor home for the tour and spends hours learning to play his guitar. "I'll sit there and make the dogs bark," he said. "My handicap's way above 18 but I'm trying to learn to play country, rock and blues."

Daly said he had become boring but Paulette Dean, his girlfriend, a 22-year-old who says she has no vices, disagreed.

"He is different," she said. "Before you didn't know what he was going to do. Now he's more mellow and he's gotten pretty funny. I think he's misunderstood. He's really not the bad guy of golf."

## England awaits stylish start

BY ROB HUGHES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

RELIEF is at hand. Tonight, before a full house at Wembley, there will be the chance to assess Terry Venables for the England team he is shaping rather than the company he keeps or the debts which, in most cases, are his own affair. It is easy to identify with his own impatience to get on with the job and to warm to his call for imagination, movement and adaptability as the cornerstones to the new England. It is not easy, yet, to be sure of his chosen 11 players because,

as ever, there are wounds to mend and last-minute medical advice to be sought.

It may sound sacrilegious — and is certainly a minority view — but England's paramount need is not to beat Denmark tonight. Far more important is that Venables's chosen elite demonstrate a style, a substance and, above all, a measure of technique that begins to show England has woken to the deficiencies of confusing energy with talent, of mistaking results in friendly matches for progress.

Of course, the match is competitive, but, to put it into perspective, it is an encounter between two failed countries attempting to restore belief in themselves — in the Danes' case, recapturing the togetherness and potency that won the European championship barely two years ago and, in England's, to set about improving the view of Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of FIFA, the game's world governing body, that England are 30 years behind the times.

As cruel as those words were not far amiss. Some of English football coaching is locked in the same era as the British Empire and, thankfully, the Venables philosophy compares Graham Taylor's as darkness does to light. Gone is Taylor's adherence to industrial football in which aggression, enthusiasm, is all. Gone,

too, is the tendency to discard talents — like Chris Waddle, Gary Lineker and Peter Beardsley — once they pass the age of 30.

In Beardsley, now 33 and enjoying a new lease of life as Newcastle's impish inspiration, an almost adolescent desire to pull on the England shirt is obvious. It will come tonight with the fiftieth cap of an international career put into mothballs three years ago.

Yesterday's late inclusion into the squad of the prolific Arsenal goalscorer, Ian Wright, for the interminably injured Les Ferdinand, should not alter pairing of Beardsley and Alan Shearer, which would blend guile with power, knowledge with hunger. Nevertheless, there might yet be the call from a metre away: "Time to bring on Wrighty."

While Venables waits to

name his starting 11, there is the opportunity to express some preferences. In goal, I would select Tim Flowers ahead of the more experienced David Seaman, not because he is demonstrably the better goalkeeper but because he exudes a joy in being on the field and communicates with the defenders in front of him in a more emphatic manner.

At full back, Venables may yet decide to go with experience, to select Paul Parker if fit and the deposed captain, Stuart Pearce. I would rather see Rob Jones, because his more accurate passing gives a better impetus to the right flank, and Graeme Le Saux, whose level of aggression is quite enough for the No 3 shirt and whose adaptability to the "wing back" role would give the left side of the England team a measured but galvanic injection.

Paul Ince could be England's midfield anchor, combining and playing off David Platt, whose intelligence and mobility has been properly acknowledged by Venables already. To the right of them, though with licence to roam and to use the full range of his ability to pass and cross the ball with either foot, I would trust Darren Anderson. Just 22, he has belief in his skills and a well-schooled appreciation of what Venables means by movement and adaptability.

That leaves Paul Gascoigne. Not even he went to bed last night knowing if his rib injury will allow him to play or give him time to convince Venables that he, the player Venables would like to build England's strategy around, should be risked.

"If desire has anything to do with it, Paul will play," Venables said. That desire is well known, it is not — in Gascoigne — an entirely trustworthy trait and it is ultimately Venables's responsibility to decide how much and for how long the Lazio midfielder man can be asked to link England's performance.

Make no mistake, when Venables quite rightly insisted that he is not putting out a team to play "pretty football", that the byword is not entertainment but imagination, Gascoigne held the key. He is irreplaceable, the one English-

man of his generation who is able to surprise the opposition from any position on the field.

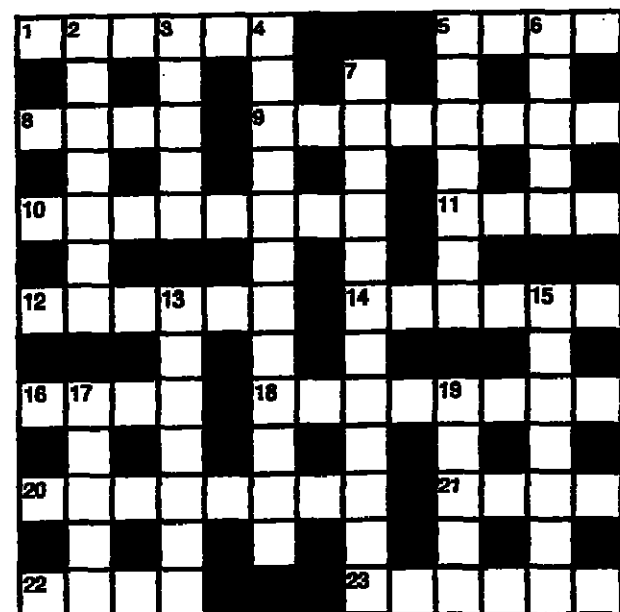
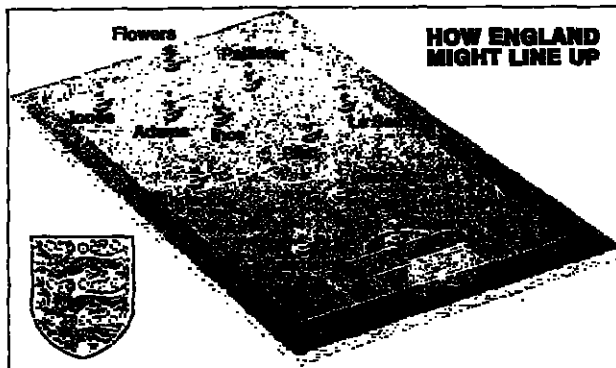
If, however, Gascoigne is unfit, the alternative is Matthew Le Tissier. Some, possibly the previous England management, consider him indolent, but he can score extraordinary goals when the mood strikes him, he is a big match player, and, most appealing of all, he embodies the notion that football embraces beauty. Beauty in an England shirt? It would be a new and welcome sight.

Gascoigne is also the corollary to the justifiable observation of his former Tottenham teammate, Erik Thorstvedt, the Norway goalkeeper, who said after his team had knocked England out of the World Cup: "England, to be honest, had better talents than we did, but they didn't fulfil potential. Here [in England], you try to out-battle each other; in Germany players try to outwit each other. That is a big difference."

It is, but English football cannot change overnight and everybody will have to accept improvement by degrees. A start tonight would simply be to say that England loosened the straitjacket, that Venables chose what flair players were available to him and that they, while probing for understanding, exhibited skills that were not dismissed by management as taking liberties.



Starting next week, a new game for readers, The Times First Class XI, which will run throughout the English cricket season. Check the progress of the experts in the current 1st XI game, on page 43.



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TIMES TWO  
CROSSWORD  
No 108

- |                                   |                                              |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                     | <b>DOWN</b>                                  |
| 1 Points of view (6)              | 2 Japanese ornamental button (7)             |
| 5 Comedy brothers (4)             | 3 Reasoning (5)                              |
| 8 Male deer (4)                   | 4 Receptiveness; easily persuaded state (12) |
| 9 Black glossy garden bird (8)    | 5 Dairy deliverer (7)                        |
| 10 Formal midday meal (8)         | 6 Wash off soap (5)                          |
| 11 Unassertive (4)                | 7 Boastful, ostentatious (12)                |
| 12 Proverbially smooth fabric (6) | 13 Pod used for flavouring (7)               |
| 14 Murdered Beetle (6)            | 15 Australian hinterland (7)                 |
| 16 Scots valley (4)               | 17 Flexible, supple (5)                      |
| 18 Greediness (8)                 | 19 Big smoke (5)                             |
| 20 Pointed heel (8)               |                                              |
| 21 Worry with teeth (4)           |                                              |
| 22 Greek 'B' (4)                  |                                              |
| 23 Caress (6)                     |                                              |

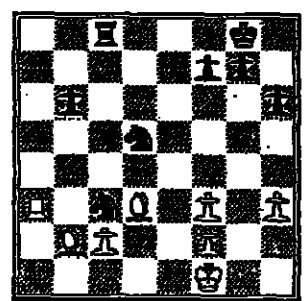
## SOLUTION TO NO 107

- ACROSS:** 1 Save face 7 Avian 8 Polish off 9 Slip 10 Ague 11 Chalet 13 Hussar 14 Accent 17 Stalky 18 Edge 20 Tip 22 Compliant 23 Raise 24 Coiffeur
- DOWN:** 1 Sepia 2 Velours 3 Fuss 4 Cloche 5 First 6 In-spect 7 Afflict 12 Valance 13 History 15 End-game 16 Kimbo 17 Spoil 19 Enter 21 Clef

By Raymond Keene

In honour of the category 18 Linares tournament, currently in progress, we are concentrating on positions from previous events. Today's problem is from the game Short - Anand, Linares 1992. Black actually resigned one move before this position arose. What was the clever tactical play that he had spotted one move too late?

Solution, page 42



By Philip Howard

- FAMOSE**
- a. Hungry  
b. To make famous  
c. A farm outhouse or steading
- GRAPELAGE**
- a. Attack by grappling iron  
b. Telling tall stories  
c. Gleaning grapes

- TEREBRA**
- a. Sub-fusc paint  
b. A strapless brassiere  
c. A boring tool
- URDEE**
- a. A primitive Indo-European language  
b. Topsy-turvy  
c. A pointed cross

Answers on page 42

"Uncle Grayson, I've just calculated on my slide rule that MERCURY are the CHEAPEST for UK long distance and international calls."

"Beware, stout nephew, your MATHS may be correct but no-one likes a GLEVER DICK."

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